嘘喰
uso
gui
30
迫稔雄

CHAPTER 318

BUSH AND CHERRY BLOSSOM

제 10 화

?

WAIT ...

PRESS

PRESS

PRESS

PRESS

WAIT A MINUTE...

WHAT'S YOUR OBJECTIVE, BAKU-SAN?

YOU WENT TOO FAR.

IN ORDER TO GAIN MORE BENEFITS, ROBBING EVERYTHING FROM THOSE WHO HAVE POWER IS NOT A GOOD IDEA.

TAKE EVERYTHING FROM HIM?

WHY DID YOU

.....

AT LEAST, HE'S NOT A PERSON THAT IS WORTH DESTROYING COMPLETELY.

HE'S JUST A WORTHLESS... "BORING" EXISTENCE.

YOU CAN MANIPULATE HIM CHRONICALLY BY KEEPING HIM IN CHECK... BUT I GUESS HE WON'T BE ABLE TO CLIMB BACK UP AGAIN.

YOUR WAYS OF THINKING ARE REALLY CUNNING...

YOU'RE MORE MATURE THAN YOU SHOULD BE FOR YOUR AGE...

HAL,

EXCEPT ONE'S LIFE.

LOSING EVERY-THING

ALTHOUGH I TOOK EVERYTHING FROM HIM, HE STILL HAS HIS LIFE.

HATEFUL EYES,

AN INTENSE MATCH,

MERELY BY IMAGINING THE SIGHTS OF THEM...

A KNIFE OF DETERMINATION, MAY STAB THROUGH MY THROAT.

A REAL MATCH STARTS THEN.

THIS DIM LIGHT

IS ALSO THEIR ONLY HOPE OF FIGHTING BACK.

A POWER THAT'S STRONGER THAN BEFORE,

ONCE A MIRACLE OCCURS,

AND,

HAHA.

竹梅

UNDER-STOOD.

HOSTESS,

I'LL LEAD YOU TO THE ROOM.

HAVEN'T THEY ARRIVED YET?

I RESERVED 3 SEATS UNDER THE NAME OOMORI FROM THE COMPANY TACHIBANA.

YOUR OPPONENT IS THE PRESIDENT OF THE COMPANY SAKASA.

HE'S DIFFERENT FROM HIS SON... MAYBE YOU...

YET, HE DEALT WITH IT WELL...

IT JUST HAPPENED YESTER-DAY...

HE'S THE FATHER OF THAT RICH SON YESTERDAY.

!

COME ON~

...*POKED AROUND THE BUSH TOO MUCH.

*"SCARING OUT A SNAKE BY POKING AT THE BUSH" MEANS TO STIR UP TROUBLE FOR ONESELF.

THEY REQUESTED A CONDITION.

I HAVEN'T SEEN THIS GUY BEFORE.

ONLY 3 MEN IN TOTAL? I DON'T SEE OTHER PEOPLE AROUND HERE...

.....

THEY ALSO HAVE ONLY 2 GUARDS, I HAVE CONFIRMED IT.

ASIDE FROM YOU, YOU CAN ONLY BRING 2 MEN.

.....

HAL?

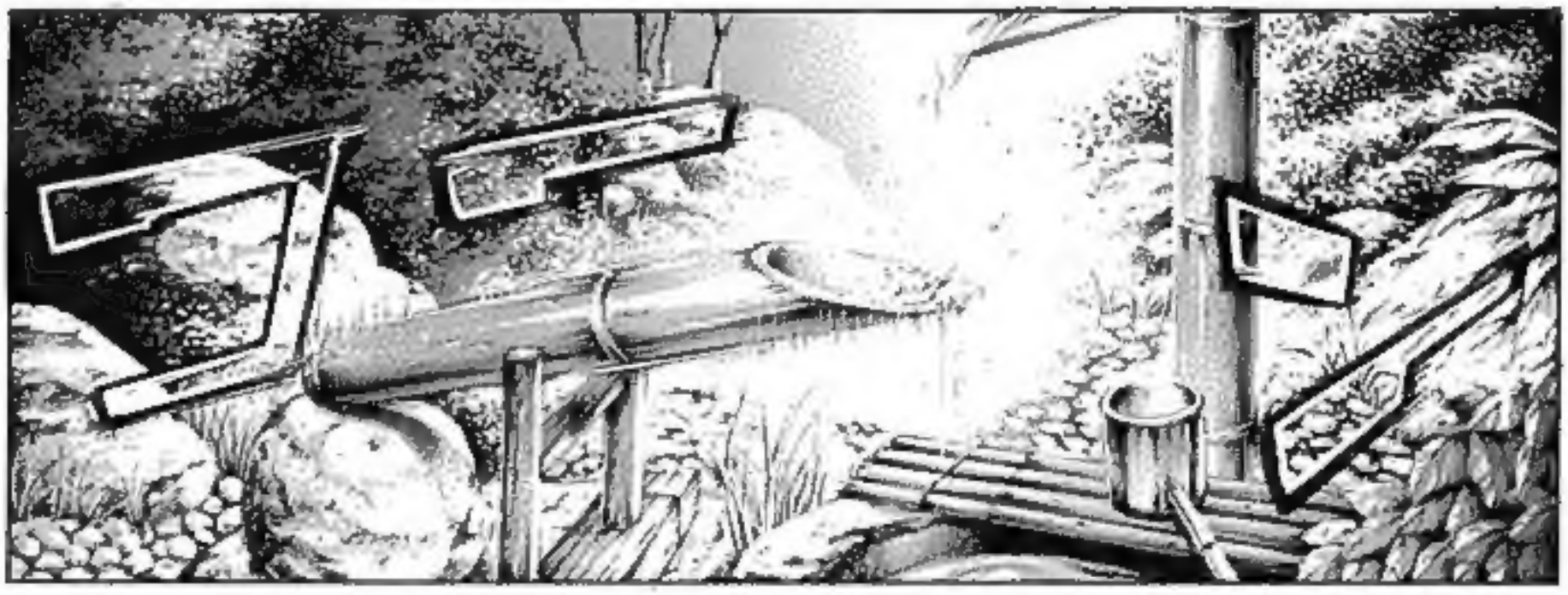
HAL... WHAT ABOUT YOU?

I...

.....

I SEE.

WILL WAIT OUTSIDE...



ANOTHER SHOT, LET'S KEEP DRINKING!

COME ON,

NO~

THAT'S GOOD~ THAT'S HOW A YOUNG MAN SHOULD BE~

NO~

YOU'RE SMART AND EASY TO GET ALONG WITH.

OH?

OH?

OH?

YOU CAN REALLY DRINK~

I REALLY WOULD LIKE MY STUPID SON, WHO LOST TO YOU YESTERDAY,

TO LEARN FROM YOU.

.....

COULD IT BE...

YEAH, RE-VENGE!!

IT'S *MUSCLE REVEN-GER!

NO~

YOU ARE HERE FOR REVENGE, AREN'T YOU?

*A MOVE IN KINNIKUMAN.

THIS MAN HAS SOMETHING TO TELL YOU, RIGHT? RIGHT?

THIS MAN!

BUT, BEFORE WE HAVE A MATCH,

ZOOO

.....

THEY CAN'T JUST SAY THAT YOU GOT IT IN A GAMBLE, RIGHT?

BESIDES, IF A YOUNG MAN LIKE YOU BECOMES THE MAJOR SHAREHOLDER, IT MEANS TROUBLE.

.....

WHAT WE'RE TRYING TO SAY IS, WE WANT TO BUY BACK THE THINGS THAT YOU WON FROM HIS SON.

SO CAN WE SETTLE IT WITH THIS 500 MILLION YEN?

HERE'S 500 MILLION YEN.

EVEN THOUGH YOU GOT THE COMPANY'S STOCKS, IT DOESN'T MEAN YOU HAVE THE MANAGEMENT RIGHTS.

COME ON, TAKE IT.

GULP

IT'S 500 MILLION, YOU SEE? YOU CAN ENJOY YOUR WHOLE LIFE WITH THIS HUGE AMOUNT OF MONEY.

!!

HAND IT TO ME!

THERE'S A CALL FROM SHIMA-SAMA.

EXCUSE ME.

PHEW~

DO THESE... PEOPLE REALLY THINK THAT THEY CAN GET RID OF USOGUI WITH 500 MILLION YEN?

YOUNG MEN SHOULDN'T BE TOO GREEDY, YOU KNOW?

THE COMPANY BELONGS TO ME. EVEN IF YOU HOLD THE STOCKS, YOU CAN'T DO ANYTHING.

IT'S ME, WHY WOULD YOU CALL...

HELLO? HELLO?

HELLO?

THESE PEOPLE...

THE THINGS HE WON YESTERDAY, THE STOCKS THEMSELVES ARE WORTH MORE THAN 500 MILLION YEN.

...AS I THOUGHT.

HEL-

CLACK

HELLO?

PHEW

SIGH

WELL ...

?

BEEP

BEEP

SOMETHING LIKE SENDING MY MEN INTO YOUR COMPANY,

LET'S WAIT AND SEE.

OR SELLING THE STOCKS TO RIVAL COMPANIES... WOULDN'T THAT BE EXCITING?

EVEN IF YOU DON'T ACCEPT THE MONEY...

WE'RE TOTALLY OKAY WITH IT.

.....

I WONDER WHERE YOUR CONFIDENCE COMES FROM.

YOU POKED THE BUSHES AND SCARED THE SNAKE OUT...

THE REFEREE TONIGHT.

BECAUSE WE DON'T NEED

BY THE WAY,

THAT CALL JUST NOW.

COULD THIS GUY... BE...? USOGUI,

BUT YOU REACTED TO IT FASTER THAN EVERYONE ELSE.

THE WAITRESS DIDN'T SAY WHOSE CALL IT WAS,

!

WHY DID YOU TAKE IT?

I WONDER WHO HE IS...?

SHIMA ...

KNOW THE PERSON NAMED SHIMA, AND YOU CARE ABOUT HIM A LOT... HE'S YOUR SUPERIOR, RIGHT?

YOU...

SHIMA... THIS NAME IS...

THE NAME OF THE SUPERINTENDENT GENERAL OF THE METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT... BAKU-SAN!!

RIGHT NOW, THE RIVAL YOU'RE FACING IS...

YOU WANT TO KNOW...?

.....

HAL...

PUBLIC AUTHORITY.

COMMISSIONER SASAOKA,

THE SECURITY BUREAU OF THE METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT

*THE "CHERRY BLOSSOM" IN THE CHAPTER TITLE REFERS TO THE POLICE. IN JAPAN, THE POLICE ARE ASSOCIATED WITH CHERRY BLOSSOMS, AND THEIR BADGE HAS TWO CHERRY BLOSSOMS ON IT.

GULP

.....

CRACK

I HAVEN'T HAD MY DINNER YET.

70 DI/00

CLACK CLACK CLACK

PARDON ME.

THE POLICE'S RANKS

警視総監 SUPERINTENDENT GENERAL

THERE'S ONLY ONE SUPERINTENDENT GENERAL,
AND THAT'S THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL
OF THE MPD.

∨

警視監 SENIOR COMMISSIONER

THERE ARE SEVERAL OF THEM.
LIKE THE DIRECTOR GENERAL OF THE NPA,
THE DEPUTY COMMISSIONER OF THE MPD, ETC.

∨

警視長 COMMISSIONER

THERE ARE SEVERAL OF THEM.
LIKE THE MINISTERS OF EACH BUREAUS
IN THE MPD.

∨

警視正
ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER

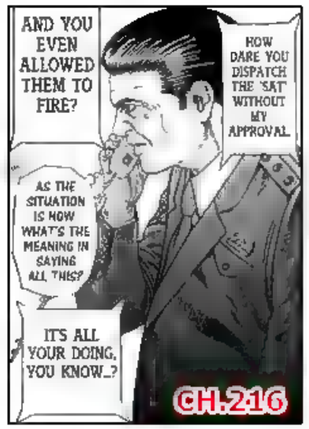
∨

? YEARS AGO

SHIMA
(NO FACE REVEAL)

SASAOKA
(THE MINISTER OF SECURITY BUREAU)

NOW


AND YOU EVEN ALLOWED THEM TO FIRE?
HOW DARE YOU DISPATCH THE 'SAT' WITHOUT MY APPROVAL.
AS THE SITUATION IS NOW WHAT'S THE MEANING IN SAYING ALL THIS?
IT'S ALL YOUR DOING, YOU KNOW..?
CH.216

?
(NO FACE REVEAL)

SASAOKA
(THE DEPUTY COMMISSIONER OF THE MPD)

THE MINISTER OF SECURITY BUREAU
(NO FACE OR NAME REVEAL)

AMAKO SEIICHI
(UNKNOWN POSITION)

NANPOU KYOUJI

CHAPTER 319

CLAMS IN THE FIRE

WHO ARE YOU PEOPLE!?

SILENCE.

ANY REASON WILL DO,

WHAT?

!?

!

CHAPTER 319
CLAMS IN THE FIRE

WE HAVE TO TAKE YOU GUYS AWAY.

THE ONLY MEN LEFT ARE

HE HAS PROBABLY PREPARED SOME METHOD TO TAKE CARE OF USOGUI'S GUARDS OUTSIDE.

SO RESERVING THE WHOLE RESTAURANT WITHIN 2 DAYS OR SUPPRESSING THE 2 MEN IN PUBLIC IS UNWISE

THIS RESTAURANT IS A HIGH-END ESTABLISH-MENT WHERE BIG SHOTS IN POLITICS AND COMMERCE DINE AT,

THE 2 STRONGER MEN CHOSEN AMONG THEM.

STEALTHILY, WITHOUT BEING NOTICED...

TAKE CARE OF THOSE TWO

.....

IF THEY CAN...

CRACK

PARDON ME...

IT'S NOT THE TIME FOR GAMBLING.

USOGUI... YOU'RE TOTALLY UNARMED NOW.

YOU'LL BE EATEN UP.

ALSO, THIS STRATEGY...

THIS GUY...

THE LAST 2 MEN, AS YOU CAN SEE, HAVE LOST CONSCIOUS-NESS.

HE'S GOOD.

DROP

SEEMS LIKE THE GUARDS OUTSIDE WERE ALL TAKEN AWAY.

.....

HAS FAILED.

SEEMS LIKE THEY PREDICTED OUR THOUGHTS,

AND SNEAKED INTO THIS RESTAURANT IN ADVANCE.

I RAN INTO SOMEONE I KNOW...

YOU'RE PEOPLE FROM THE COMPANY TACHIBANA, RIGHT ?

CAN YOU WAIT FOR A SECOND?

THAT IS NOT THE ROOM...

HAVEN T THEY ARRIVED YET?

I RESERVED 3 SEATS UNDER THE NAME OOMORI FROM THE COMPANY TACHIBANA

OH MY~

ペろ

HOW ABOUT WE TAKE THEIR PLACES?

MISS, CAN YOU KEEP THE DOOR TO THE ROOM OPEN AND STAY HERE?

YE-

YES!

THE GUARDS

SEEMS LIKE OURS ARE SLEEPING RIGHT NOW.

SHOULD BE 2 MEN AT MOST, RIGHT?

THEN... SORRY FOR BOTHERING YOU.

IS IMPOSSIBLE FOR ME NOW.

TAKING CARE OF THEM WITHOUT BEING NOTICED BY ANYONE.

THAT'S IT FOR ME,

USOGUI... YOU FOUND SOMEONE GOOD.

HE'S SMART.

ARE YOU GOING TO GIVE UP?

ALRIGHT,

OR ARE YOU GOING TO HAVE A MATCH TO TAKE BACK WHAT YOUR SON LOST?

CHOOSE.

OH! DON'T DO ANYTHING STUPID.

HE GOT ME~

HA HA~

RIGHT?

RIGHT?

WE FINALLY REACHED THE STARTING POINT, IF YOU'RE GOING TO FLIP THE TABLE, THIS MEETING IS OVER... AND YOU'LL GO HOME EMPTY-HANDED...

IN ORDER TO WIN IN LIFE, SOMETIMES YOU HAVE TO BE RUTHLESS, SOMETIMES YOU HAVE TO RISK YOUR LIFE.

I'M A MAN WHO ACCUMULATED IMMENSE WEALTH FROM NOTHING.

PRESIDENT SAKAI, I CAN PIN ANY KIND OF CRIME ON THIS...

THERE'S NO NEED.

SASAOKA-KUN, SIT DOWN.

I THOUGHT

I WAS ABLE TO EAT VERY EASILY, BUT SEEMS LIKE I WAS WRONG.

IT'S TIME TO EAT.

YOU SHOULD KNOW WHEN TO RETREAT.

AND WHEN TO EAT.

NOW.

WHAT~? YOU DON'T KNOW WHEN TO EAT, HUH~

RIGHT NOW, THE DOMESTIC CLAMS WITH THIS SIZE ARE EXTREMELY EXPENSIVE, THEY ARE REALLY RARE.

NO THANKS.

YOU WANT TO EAT SOME CLAMS TOO?

ANYTHING CAN BE USED TO GAMBLE... POKER AND DICE ARE NOT EVERYTHING.

DON'T BE SO ANXIOUS.

GULP

WHAT ABOUT THE GAMBLE? IT'S NO USE IF YOU'RE TRYING TO BUY TIME

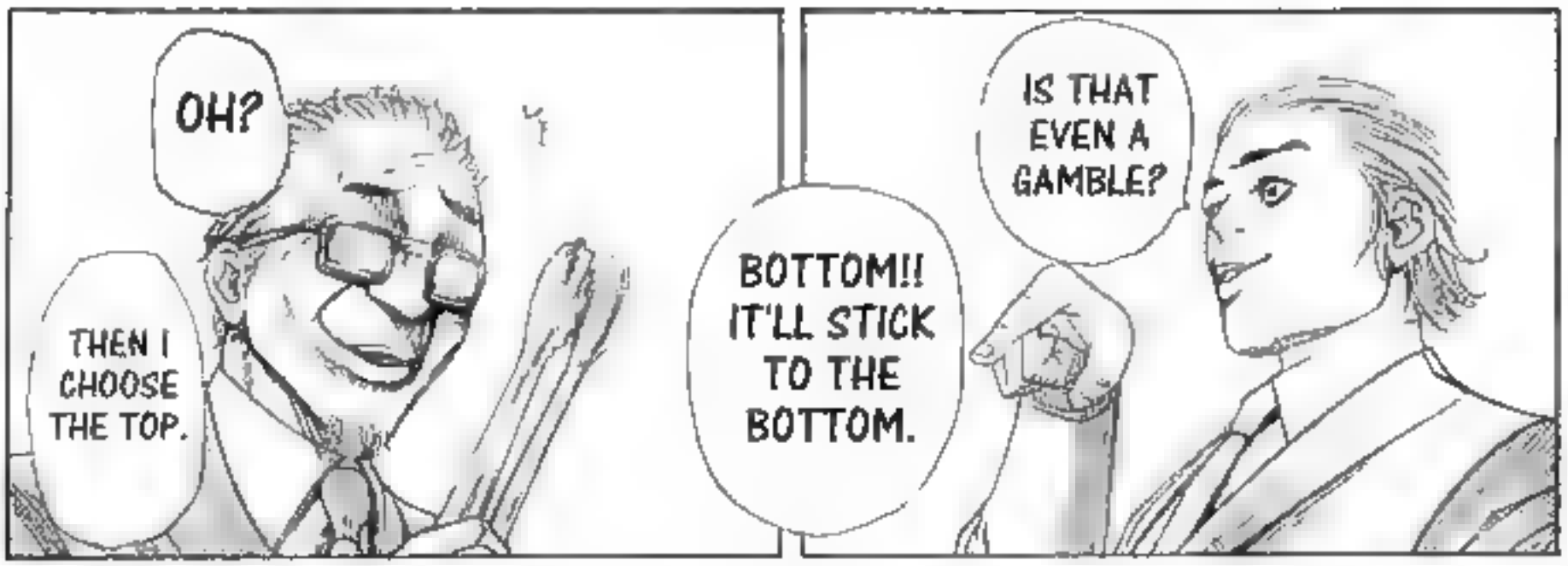
WHAT?

REALLY?

THIS CLAM,

FOR EXAMPLE,

WHEN IT OPENS, DO YOU THINK THE MEAT WILL STICK TO THE TOP OR THE BOTTOM?


OH?
THEN I CHOOSE THE TOP.
BOTTOM!! IT'LL STICK TO THE BOTTOM.
IS THAT EVEN A GAMBLE?

11°f
11°f
11°f
11°f

YOU CAN'T FIND ANY HINTS FROM THE OUTSIDE, IT TOTALLY DEPENDS ON LUCK!

SEE?

ISN'T IT FUN? EVEN THOUGH IT'S JUST IMPROMPTU?

HAHA~ IT'S THE TOP! THE TOP!!

YOU DIDN'T CHEAT, DID YOU?

.....

KYAHAHA! HOW? IF YOU'RE SUSPICIOUS, YOU CAN ORDER SOME NEW CLAMS!

BUT YOU HAVE TO PAY FOR THEM YOURSELF~

THE AMOUNT OF LUCK AND THE WEIGHT OF LIFE BETWEEN YOU AND I ARE TOTALLY DIFFERENT.

DON'T MISTAKE ME AS MY STUPID SON.

I WON'T LOSE TO SOME YOUNGSTER LIKE YOU~

BUT IT'S STUPID~

HOW DO I PUT THIS~ YEAH, IT'S FUN.

OR SHOULD I SAY~ ORIGINALLY, A GAMBLE SHOULD BE...

OF BETTING WITH SOMETHING LIKE THIS?

ARE YOU SCARED?

TAKING A WALK,

ISN'T EVERYTHING IN THIS WORLD A GAMBLE?

SO,

SHOPPING,

EVERYTHING IS GAINED

HAVING SEX,

AFTER YOU PAY THE PRICE.

EVEN IF WE DON'T USE THE CLAMS,

LIKE I SAID, ANYTHING CAN BE USED TO GAMBLE.

ANYTHING CAN BE USED, THAT WAS HOW GAMBLES WERE BORN.

THE BOWLS, THE CHOPSTICKS,

YOU'RE JUST UPSET BECAUSE IT WAS A BAD OMEN.

WHAT YOU RESENTED WAS THAT, RIGHT? YOU LOST THE CLAM BET.

.....

IDIOT...

ALRIGHT... I GOT IT.

WE'LL SETTLE IT WITH ONE GAME.

HERE ARE 10 CLAMS.

WE'LL GUESS HOW MANY CLAMS HAVE THEIR MEAT STICK TO THE TOP, THE ONE WITH A CLOSER ANSWER WINS.

HAHA!

INTERESTING... THE FATHER HAS TO TAKE CARE OF HIS SON'S MISTAKE.

THE WAGER IS "THE THING WE JUST NEGOTIATED".

YES.

ALSO, THERE WON'T BE A SITUATION WHERE THE GAPS ARE THE SAME.

KYARA-SAN, THE NUMBERS ARE DIFFERENT, RIGHT?

.....

I KNOW...

I'LL ENJOY IT.

THEN, LET'S START.

HEHE... IT'S TIME TO EAT... ORIGINALLY, THE TIME TO EAT MEANS THE INSTANT WHEN...

THAT'S THE MOMENT TO EAT.

...THE PREY EXPOSES ITS WEAK-NESS...

AS I THOUGHT... YOU ARE...

HUH?

?

WHAT? ISN'T HE...?

HUH?

THAT BAKU-SAN ALREADY KNEW HIS OPPONENT WAS THE POLICE,

COULD IT BE

AND ALSO PREDICTED WHAT I'D DO...? NO, WHAT'S MORE IMPORTANT IS...

WHETHER THEY'RE AWARE OF IT

PEOPLE

OR NOT.

LIVE BY PLANTING SEEDS

EVERYONE HAS THE SAME OBJECTIVE:

TO OBTAIN A FASCINATING FRUIT.

ALWAYS ABLE TO BEAR A FRUIT FROM THEIR SEEDS.

IT'S NOT LIKE THEY ARE

FROM UNDER THEIR FEET

SOME SEEDS ALSO GET SNATCHED BY SOMEONE ELSE

THE SEEDS TO WHICH THEY GAVE THEIR EVERYTHING.

THERE ARE ALSO SOME WHO

LIVE ALL THEIR LIFE WITHOUT EVER KNOWING ABOUT THE SEEDS THEY'VE PLANTED.

CHAPTER 320

THE SEED PRODUCTION OF THE LABYRINTH

KYA!

ヒルム

OI!!

THEN...

THAT'S BECAUSE YOU YELLED AT ME WITH SUCH A LOUD VOICE...

IT WILL BE READY SOON.

I...

I'M SORRY, PRESIDENT SAKAI.

I TOLD YOU TO PUT MORE COAL, DIDN'T I!! THE CLAMS ARE NOT OPENING DUE TO THE LACK OF HEAT!!

.....

.....

IT'S ALRIGHT

AH, PLEASE PLACE THOSE CLAMS BACK, YOU DON'T NEED TO GIVE US NEW ONES.

ABOUT TO OPEN.

THEY ARE

HM?

THEN.

AH!

OH!

THE BOTTLE IS RIGHT THERE NEXT TO YOU.

COME ON.

I WANT TO TASTE THOSE WARM CLAMS WITH SOME SAKE.

COME ON... HERE, HERE.

NOW IF YOU'LL ALLOW ME...

THAT'S GOOD! AS I THOUGHT, YOU REALLY CAN DRINK!

WELL, THAT WAS UP UNTIL NOW.

……

……

WERE A MAN OF GREAT VALUE TO ME.

YOU

MORE THAN SAKE, KIDS LIKE YOU NEED TO EXPERIENCE SOME SEVERE *BURNS FOR THEIR EDUCATION.

AS IF I'D POUR SOME SAKE FOR YOU.

NOW THAT YOUR LOSS IS DECIDED, YOU HAVE NO VALUE ANYMORE IN MY EYES.

BECAUSE

I WAS ABLE TO FIND OUT THE NUMBER THAT WOULD DEFINITELY MAKE ME WIN.

ALTHOUGH THIS GAMBLE IS QUITE GOOD, IT IS FAR TOO EASY.

IT'S TOO SIMPLE... I COULD WIN IT WITHOUT BREAKING A SWEAT. THERE'S NO NEED FOR GIVING ME *BURNS AT ALL.

HOW STRANGE ...

RIGHT NOW, I WAS THINKING THAT "MY VALUE INCREASED EVEN FURTHER".

?

?

SOMETHING I KNEW".

"FEIGNING NOT KNOWING

WITH SIMPLE BASIC OBSERVATION SKILLS AND

AS LONG AS YOU DON'T DRAW THAT LOW PROBABILITY JOKER, OF COURSE.

YES.

DEFINITELY... WIN?

WHAT HAPPENS WHEN THE CLIENTS COOK THE CLAMS BY THEMSELVES WITHOUT REMOVING THE BLACK PROTUBERANCE?

THEN, KEN-CHAN,

WILL THE MEAT STICK TO THE TOP OR THE BOTTOM?

THEN, THE JUICES INSIDE WON'T SPILL OUT, AND THE MEAT WILL BECOME MORE CHEWY.

LISTEN CARE-FULLY,

WHEN COOKING THESE IN THE KITCHEN, YOU SHOULD REMOVE THIS BLACK PROTUBERANCE.

THE CLAM OPENS WHEN THE ADDUCTOR MUSCLES SEPARATE FROM THE SIDE BEING HEATED IN OTHER WORDS...

BIVALVE MOLLUSKS LIKE THOSE CLAMS ARE LINKED TO THE SHELL BY THEIR ADDUCTOR MUSCLES.

BY DOING SO, THE CLAMS WON'T OPEN ANYMORE BY THEMSELVES WHEN BEING HEATED.

THE COUNT IS 1 CLAM.

NOW,

FIRST CLAM: TOP.

STICK TO THE TOP.

THEY WILL ALL

PRESIDENT SAKAI

9

IT WAS NOT EVEN A GAMBLE.

YES.

MEANING, IN THEIR GAMBLE, ALL 10 CLAMS WILL STICK TO THE TOP, CORRECT?

JUNKO, YOU'RE BOTHERING ME, GO BACK TO WORK.

NO WAAAAAY~

IO...

THAT IS

A FIGURE THAT WILL ALWAYS WIN...

WAIT A SECOND.

KEN-CHAN,

!

KYA!

EW...

OI!!

THEN, WHAT HAPPENS WHEN THE ADDUCTOR MUSCLES WERE ALMOST READY TO LEAVE THE BOTTOM... IN OTHER WORDS, THE CLAMS ARE TURNED OVER AT A CERTAIN POINT WHEN BEING GRILLED, WHAT WOULD HAPPEN THEN?

THE REASON FOR THE CLAMS STICKING TO THE TOP ARE DUE TO THE ADDUCTOR MUSCLES SEPARATING FROM THE BOTTOM, RIGHT?

JUNKO, GET BACK TO WORK.

THEY MIGHT INSTEAD STICK TO THE BOTTOM, OR DIAGONALLY...

THE OTHER FOUR, INCLUDING THOSE THAT STUCK DIAGONALLY, ARE NOT COUNTED.

OUT OF 10 CLAMS, 6 STUCK TO THE TOP.

I KNEW BY THEN THAT YOU'D ANSWER 10.

I MADE SURE THAT THOSE OBSERVATIONS SKILLS YOU ARE SO PROUD OF WOULD MAKE YOU NOTICE THE TRICK BEHIND THOSE CLAMS.

I NEVER HAD THE INTENTION TO GUESS THE CORRECT NUMBER.

THE FIGHT WAS OVER WHEN I MADE THE WAITRESS CHANGE THE COAL.

THE WINNER HAS BEEN DECIDED.

I COULD NOT KNOW IF YOU HAD ANY KNOWLEDGE REGARDING CLAMS OR NOT, BUT...

WHEN YOU ACCEPTED MY OFFER, I BET ON THE FACT THAT YOU TOOK MY BAIT.

AS A RESULT, JUST BY WRITING 9, THE PRESIDENT CREATED A SITUATION WHERE HE WOULD BE THE WINNER FROM 0 TO 9, WHEREAS BAKU COULD ONLY WIN WITH A PERFECT MATCH OF 10.

NUMBER	0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9	10
WINNER	PRESIDENT	BAKU

HE MADE IT SO THAT THE CLAMS WOULD BE TURNED OVER, BASED ON THE CONDITION THAT BAKU-SAN WOULD THINK ALL 10 CLAMS WOULD STICK TO THE TOP.

HE TURNED THE GAME BACK INTO A GAMBLE THAT DEPENDS ON LUCK.

THE FIGURE WHERE I CAN DEFINITELY WIN AGAINST YOU IS...

IT IS NOW TIME THAT YOU LEARN TO LOSE. THE WINNER IS THE ONE WHO WROTE THE CLOSEST NUMBER..

TURN OVER

NO WAAAAAY~

9.

ENT SAKAI

9

ISN'T IT 8?

MAD[illegible]AME BAKU

8

*BURN (炙) AND 9 ARE PRONOUNCED THE SAME IN JAPANESE.

HA HA HA HA HA

THAT I DIDN'T NEED ANY HEATING UP

FROM YOUR *NINE.

BU HA HA HA HA HA

I TOLD YOU, DIDN'T I?

HA HA HA HA

SO YOU SHOULD JUST THINK THAT THE EXPLANATION YOU GAVE ME BEFORE WAS MINE TO SAY, THAT'S IT.

WELL, IT'S ALSO BORING TO EXPLAIN IT TO YOU... LET'S JUST SAY THE MAIN CHARACTER WAS DIFFERENT.

HEY, WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR?

AS FOR ME, I ONLY NEEDED TO BET ON THE FACT THAT THE CLAMS STICKING TO THE TOP WOULDN'T BE 9 OR 10, THAT'S IT...

WELL, THAT'S NOTHING TO BE ANXIOUS ABOUT THOUGH.

.....

WHAT?

HOWEVER, YOU ARE JUST SO WEAK... LIKE FATHER LIKE SON... I GUESS THE BLOODLINE IS REALLY DOING ITS JOB~

LET'S HAVE A TOAST TO YOUR MAJOR STOCK HOLDER.

SHALL WE?

ヒュウガ

LIVE BY PLANTING SEEDS

HAHA.

WHETHER THEY'RE AWARE OF IT OR NOT

HOWEVER, WHEN I WIN...

IT'S OKAY TO BET WITH CLAMS.

BAKU-SAN,

ARE YOU OKAY?

YOU'RE STAG-GERING.

YEAH~

PEOPLE

WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

?

I TOOK THEM "FROM YOU", NOT YOUR SON.

I WANT TO MAKE IT AS

THE THING I TOOK YESTERDAY WITH A BIG WIN

HIS SON.

BY DOING SO, THE NEXT ONE TO SIT IN HIS POSITION WOULD BE

SO THAT THE COMPANY'S PRESIDENT WILL BE REPLACED.

MAKE THAT PRESIDENT OUT TO BE AN IMBECILE OF AN EXECUTIVE, WHO LOST HIS SOCIAL POSITION AFTER BEING BANKRUPTED THROUGH A GAMBLE.

BAKU-SAN... YOU ARE PLANNING TO

IT'S NOT LIKE I DIDN'T KNOW IT...

BAKU-SAN'S GOAL IS...

THE KARAMETE.

THE COMPANY RAN BY THAT SON,

AND THE MAJOR STOCKHOLDER BEING BAKU-SAN... IT WOULD BE VERY EASY FOR HIM TO SEND IN...

SURPASSING THE LEADER.

HA!

IF THE CURRENT BAKU-SAN IS GOING TO ATTEMPT SURPASSING THE LEADER,

HE WOULD IMMEDIATELY ...

!!

BAKU-SAN!

HAHA!

OH!

OH OH!

HA... HAHA HA!

HAL,

I AM FEELING EXTREMELY LUCKY NOW.

I WONDER WHY...

HAHA...

I FEEL LIKE... I WON'T LOSE TO ANYONE.

HA HA!

I TOLD YOU! I'M LUCKY!

.....

HA!

AH~

HA HA!

HOW-EVER,

ONE HAS TO BE PRUDENT.

BECOME A VIOLENT POISON THAT COULD

DESTROY ONESELF.

ONE DAY, THE SEED ONE HAS PLANTED MAY ALSO

IT'S NOT LIKE EVERY SEED PLANTED WILL GROW INTO A FRUIT

ESPECIALLY IF ONE IS NOT AWARE OF HAVING PLANTED IT AT ALL.

AND?

WHAT ARE YOU PLANNING TO BET ON?

PEOPLE

I WOULD LIKE TO BET ON

THE FACT OF YESTERDAY'S GAMBLE.

MUCH MORE THAN JUST GIVING YOU BACK MY EARNINGS.

LIVE BY PLANTING SEEDS.

IT WOULD BE ADVANTAGEOUS FOR YOU TO HAVE KAKEROU DESTROY ANY EVIDENCE OF THE SCANDALOUS TRUTH OF YOU LOSING SUCH AN AMOUNT OF MONEY, WOULDN'T IT?

INCLUDING MEMORIES AND RECORDINGS.

EVERYTHING THAT HAPPENED ON THAT DAY WOULD DISAPPEAR TOO.

.....

!

THAT SUCH AN INVISIBLE SEED WOULD ONE DAY

AT THAT TIME, NO ONE WOULD HAVE EVEN DREAMED OF IT

LIVES BY PLANTING SEEDS...

EVERY-ONE

HOLD ON...

THAT WOULD COMPLETELY SHAKE THE WORLD

GROW UP INTO A GIGANTIC FRUIT

I SEE...

IF I WERE TO USE KAKEROU ..

IN THE FORM OF A CRIME COVER-UP SYSTEM.

IN ORDER TO INDULGE IN THAT FRUIT'S TASTE.

CHAPTER 321
FIRST CONTACT, 2ND TIME

APRIL 9TH. 2001

TWO AND A HALF YEARS LATER

I AM THE LEADER OF

KAKEROU.

YOU ARE... BAKU-KUN, RIGHT?

NICE TO MEET YOU.

HAL...

CON-
GRATULA-
TIONS

FOR YOUR
ONCE-IN-A-
LIFETIME,
SURPASSING
THE LEADER
MATCH.

ALL OF THEM
ARE NECESSARY
IN ORDER TO SURPASS
THE LEADER.
THAT IS WHAT I
DEEPLY BELIEVE.

RIGHT NOW,
YOU HAVE
4 ELEMENTS
IN YOUR
HAND.

ALTHOUGH IT
HAS BECOME AN
ABANDONED RULE,
IT WOULD BE QUITE
IMPOSSIBLE FOR A MAN
TO CLEAR THE CONDITION
OF "HAVING THE
REFEREE NO.0 AS HIS
EXCLUSIVE REFEREE"
WITHOUT
EXTREME LUCK.

THE
FIRST
ONE IS,

LUCK.

MAKING THE
CURRENT NO 0
BECOME YOUR
EXCLUSIVE REFEREE,
BOTH ARE
DIFFICULT...
ONLY "LUCK"
RENDERS THIS
POSSIBLE.

HAVING
YOUR OWN
REFEREE
CLIMB UP
UNTIL THEY
BECOME
NO.0 OR

IT SEEMS ALL THE BODYGUARDS REALLY HAVE BEEN TAKEN AWAY.

OH?

AFTER ALL,

THEY'LL BE BACK SOON.

THERE WERE NO WARRANTS NOR ARE THEY SUSPECTS. THIS WAS NOTHING MORE THAN A FORCEFUL ESCORT TO THE POLICE STATION. THEY CAN'T KEEP THEM IN FOR A LONG TIME.

INDEED, USING THOSE KIND OF GUYS IS ALSO A WAY TO GAIN POSITION AND WEALTH IN A SHORT TIME,

BUT REMEMBER,

THEY ARE HELPING YOU ONLY BECAUSE THEY'LL GAIN "BENEFITS" FROM YOUR WINNING...

THE MOMENT YOU LOSE, THEY WILL GO AWAY. THIS IS QUITE THE STRAIGHT-FORWARD RELATION-SHIP.

IT'S BECAUSE YOU HAVE WON.

.....

THOSE GUARDS ARE THE MEN OF THE KAKEROU MEMBER YOU TEAMED UP WITH.

YOU'RE ONLY GOOD AS LONG AS YOU KEEP WINNING.

I AM THE SAME AS THOSE GUYS...

DON'T MISUNDER-STAND... I AM ONLY THE REFEREE NUMBER ZERO.

I DON'T CARE ABOUT YOU AT ALL.

NOT YOUR ALLY.

I AM NOT AS

LUCKY AS YOU SEEM TO SAY...

THE SECOND ONE IS "SKILL"

YOU WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO GAIN THE CONDITION, 50 BILLION YEN, WITHOUT PEERLESS SKILLS.

CUNNING TRICKS,

IT IS NOT AN AMOUNT OF MONEY THAT CAN BE EARNED WITH "LUCK" ONLY.

THE WISDOM TO FORESEE

OPPOR-TUNITIES AND DANGERS.

HAVING "SKILL" IS NECESSARY FOR SEEING THROUGH EVERYTHING.

YOU'RE A BIT PUSHY... I MEAN, ISN'T THIS TOO LONG?

ARE YOU STILL GOING ON WITH THIS?

I AGREE, HOWEVER, I STILL HAD TO SAY IT.

...

YOU CAN ONLY BE ABLE TO PREPARE THE CONDITION, KARAMETE, THROUGH AN ABSOLUTE POWER.

THE THIRD ONE IS "POWER".

TONIGHT'S SKY IS BEAUTIFUL.

LET ME THINK...

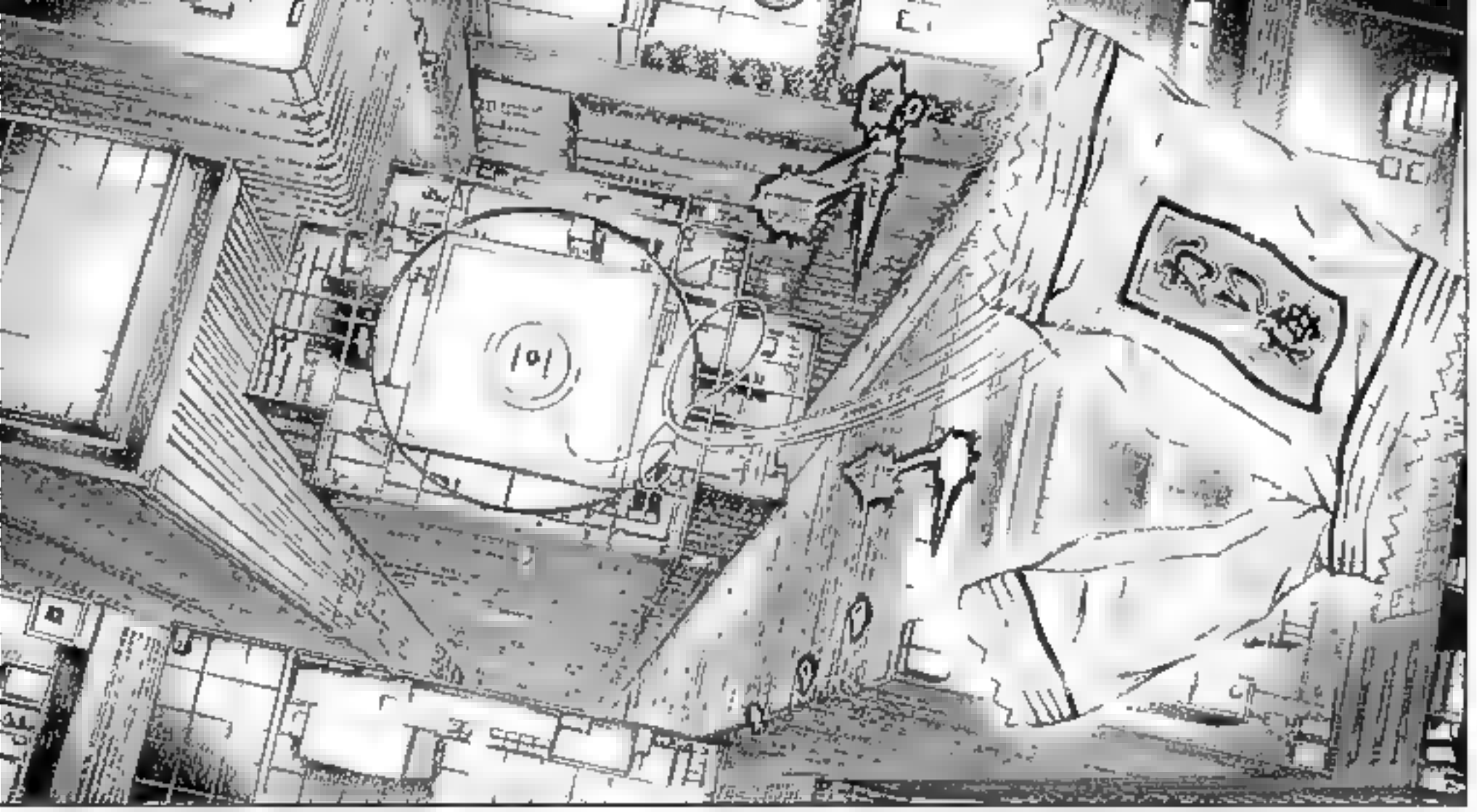
WHAT WILL WE PLAY?

SO,

GOOD.

WHAT ABOUT MAKING THIS BET ABOUT AIR VEHICLES PASSING BY THIS AREA? WILL THERE BE ANY WITHIN 30 MINUTES OR NOT?

WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT THIS?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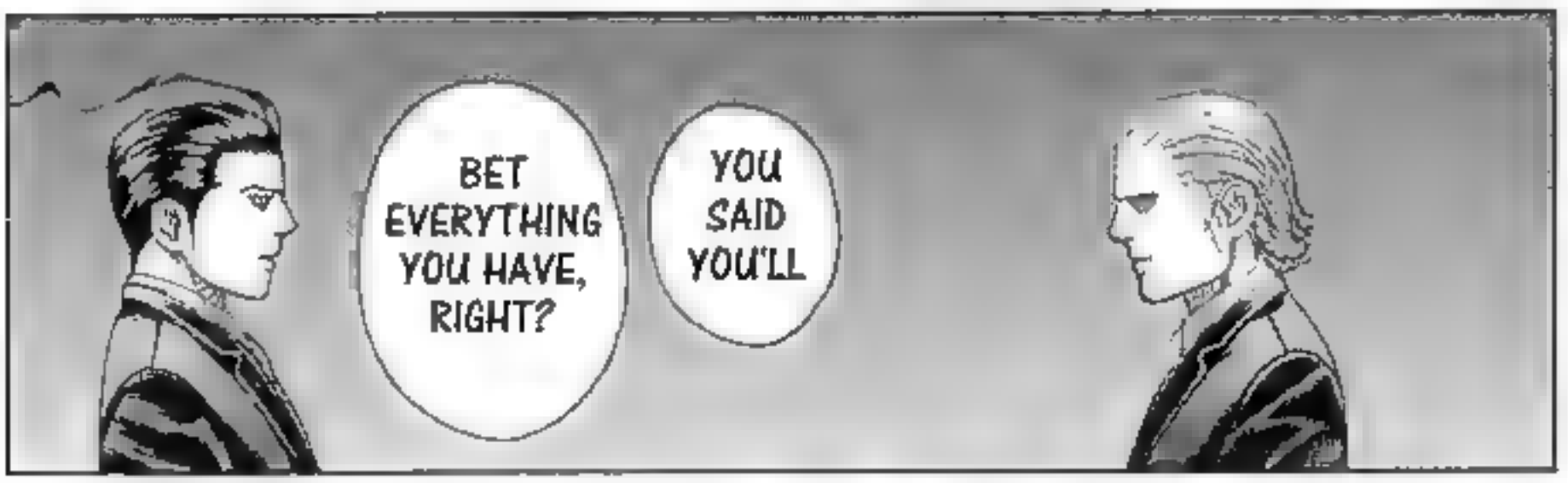
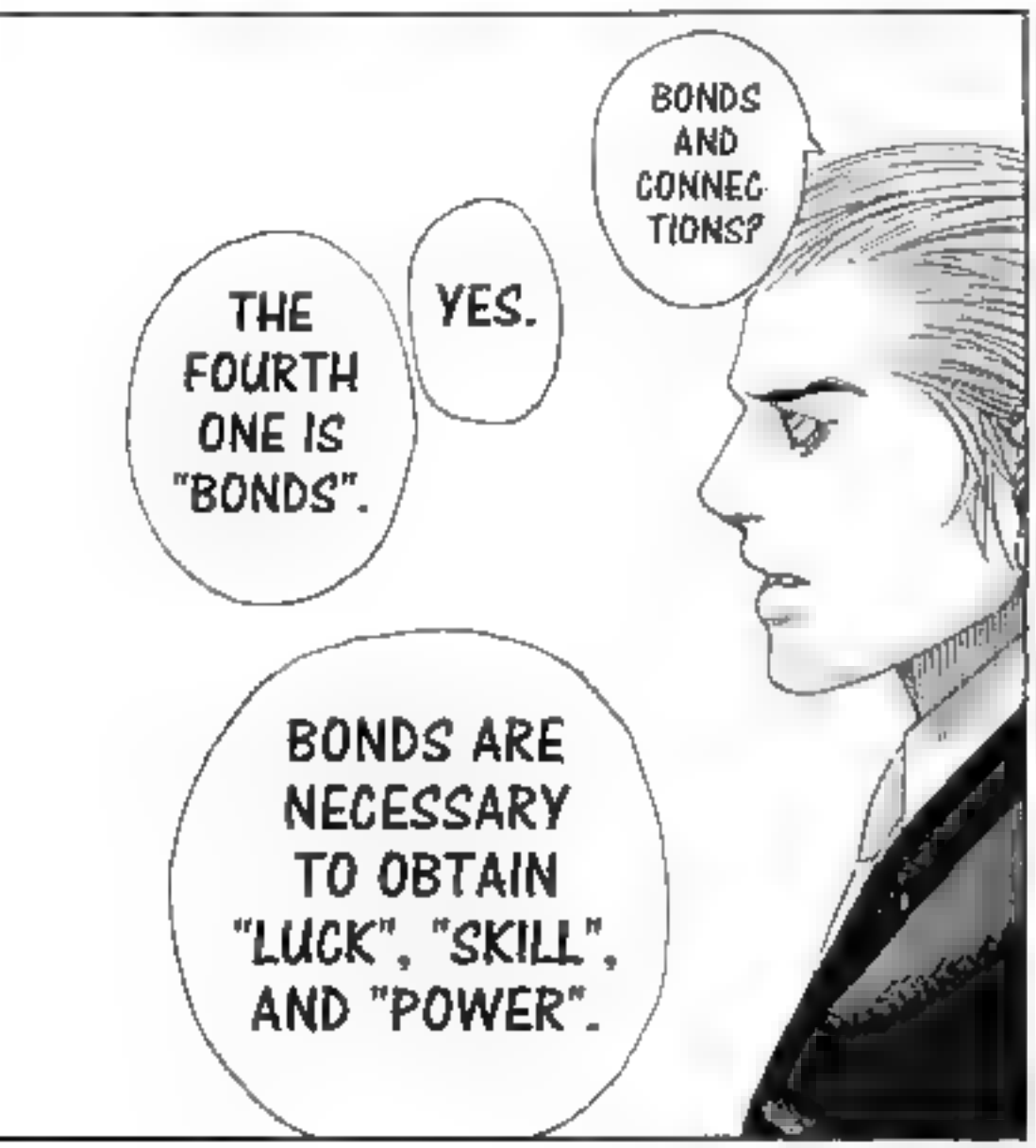
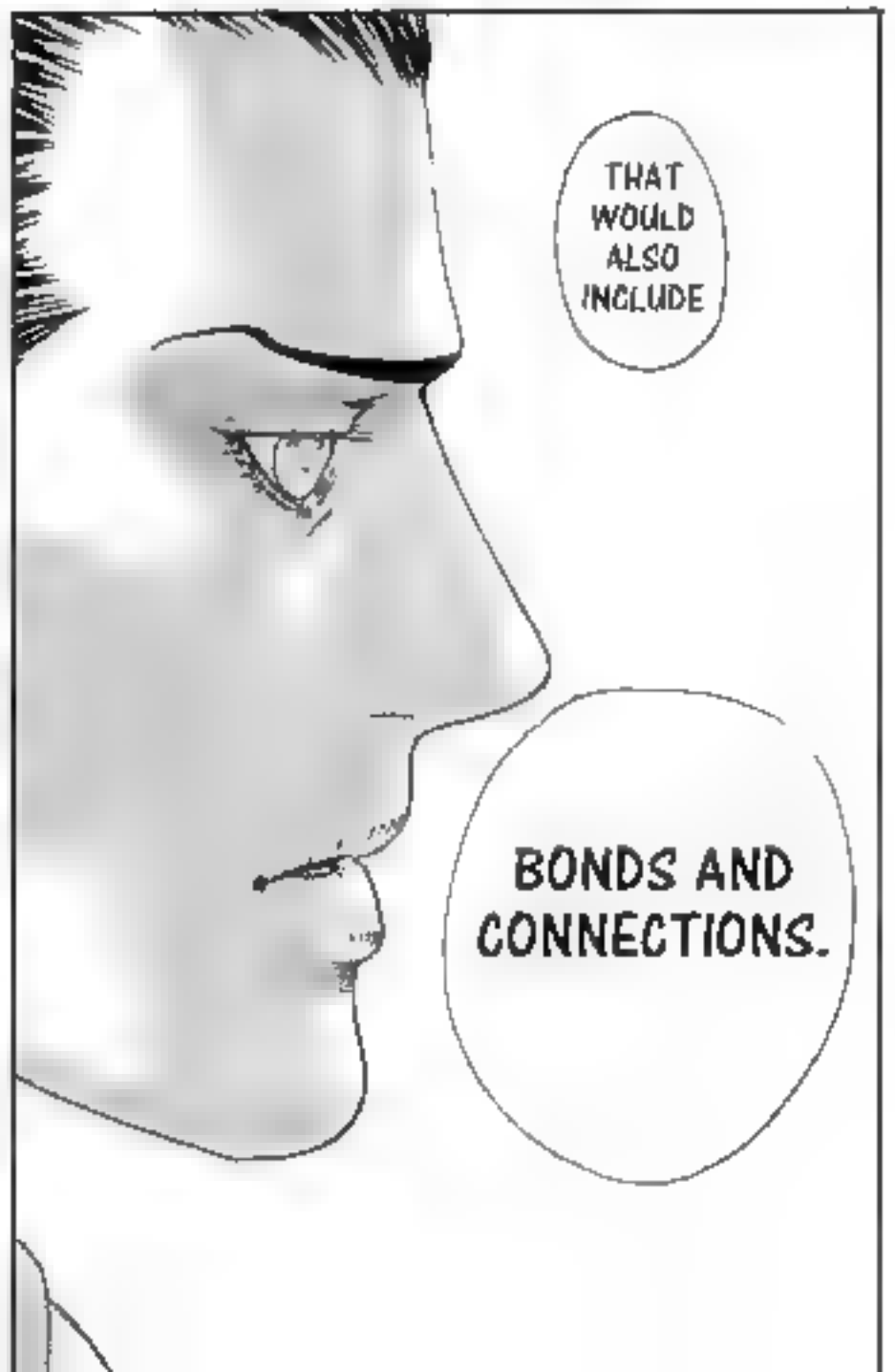

BET EVERYTHING YOU HAVE, RIGHT?
YOU SAID YOU'LL


BONDS AND CONNEC TIONS?
YES.
THE FOURTH ONE IS "BONDS".
BONDS ARE NECESSARY TO OBTAIN "LUCK", "SKILL", AND "POWER".


THAT WOULD ALSO INCLUDE
BONDS AND CONNECTIONS.

CAN YOU STAND HERE AND HAVE THE SURPASSING THE LEADER MATCH.

ONLY BY HAVING BONDS.

YOU WERE ONLY ABLE TO CLEAR ALL THE CONDITIONS WITH YOUR BONDS.

SURPASSING THE LEADER IS A ONCE IN A LIFETIME BET.

THAT'S WHY

WE WILL BOTH BET OUR EVERY-THING.

KAKEROU WILL PLEDGE YOU LOYALTY EXACTLY JUST AS IF YOU WERE ME.

IF YOU WIN, YOU WILL TAKE MY SEAT.

IT'S A BIT SAD, BUT I'LL BECOME NOTHING MORE THAN AN INTRUDER, REGARDLESS OF MY PAST STATUS.

AND THAT IS NOT A MEANINGLESS TITLE.

I'LL TAKE MY OWN LIFE.

トロ

HAL,

AREN'T YOU CURIOUS ABOUT THE RELATIONSHIP

BETWEEN ME AND THAT BLACK SUIT GUY OR THOSE MEN?

IT'S NOT LIKE I'M NOT INTERESTED AT ALL.

BUT I'M NOT INTERESTED IN THEM SO MUCH THAT I'D HAVE TO ASK FOR MYSELF WITHOUT YOU TELLING ME FIRST.

I CAN SEE THAT THOSE GUYS ARE NOT NORMAL,

HM~

...IT'S A LIE.

YOUR SURROUN-DINGS.

WHAT'S IMPORTANT TO ME IS NOT

AND THEN, MY FATHER WILL...

CHALLENGE SURPASSING THE LEADER...

ONE DAY, BAKU-SAN WILL

HAVING YOU BE MY FIRST RIVAL IN A GAMBLE,

AND LOSING MY FIRST GAMBLE EVER,

I ONLY HAVE MY MEMORY UP UNTIL THAT MOMENT...

PLEASE STAY CALM

I'M SO DIFFERENT, COMPARED TO BACK THEN.

KIRUMA SOUICHI ...?

NO... RIGHT NOW I AM HACHINA NAOKI.

WHO AM I?

AND IT'S A DIFFER-ENT...

A DIFFERENT HACHINA NAOKI COMPARED TO THE PAST...

IT'S LIKE I'VE BEEN STRAYING OUTSIDE OF MY ORIGINAL ROUTE.

IT FEELS LIKE...

I'VE BEEN DIS-CONNECTED FROM EVERY-THING.

THAT PICTURE BOOK, THE PRINCE BEE... YOU CAN HAVE IT IF YOU WANT?

HAL?

I HAVE ALREADY FINISHED IT, SO...

I WILL NEVER BE ABLE TO BECOME... MYSELF AGAIN...

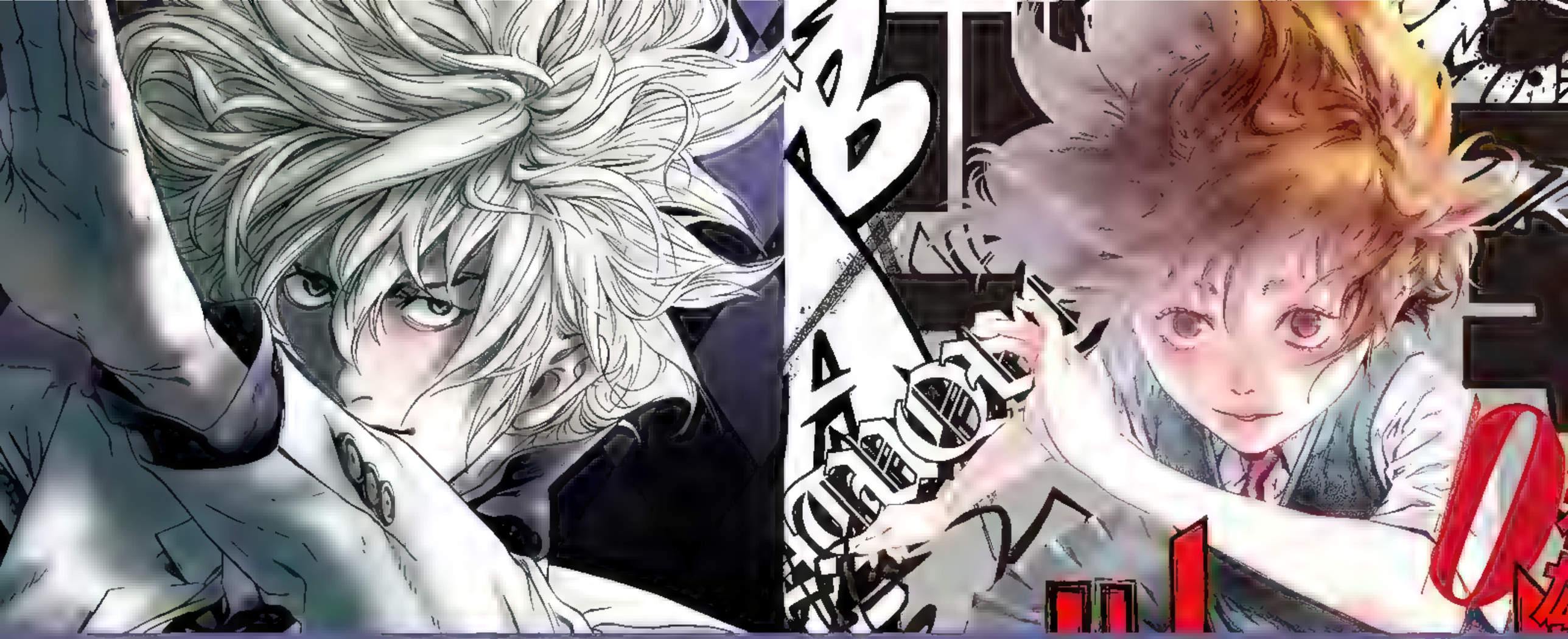
I FEEL LIKE

EBA...

HAL,

YOU CAN JUST DO WHAT YOU WANT.

...BAKU-SAN.



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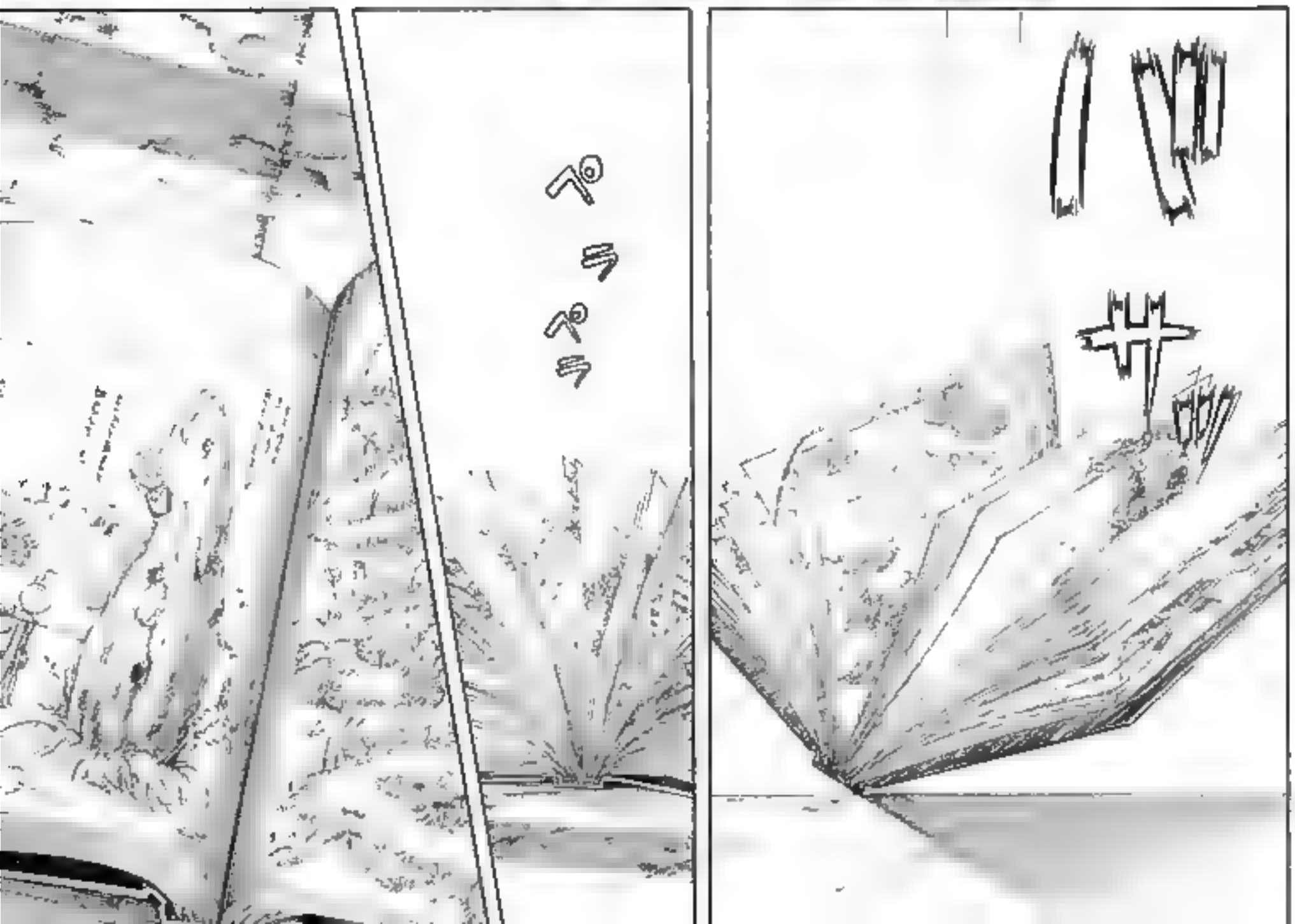
CHAPTER 322

THE OWL IN THE ANTHILL



THE PRINCE SENT THE SIGNAL UNDER THE ANTHILL TOWER NEXT TO 6 TREES.

IT WAS THE ASSIGNED PLACE WHERE HE AND THE OLD BUTLER BEE AGREED TO MEET.

THE EXPELLED PRINCE FINALLY ARRIVED AT HIS DESTINATION.

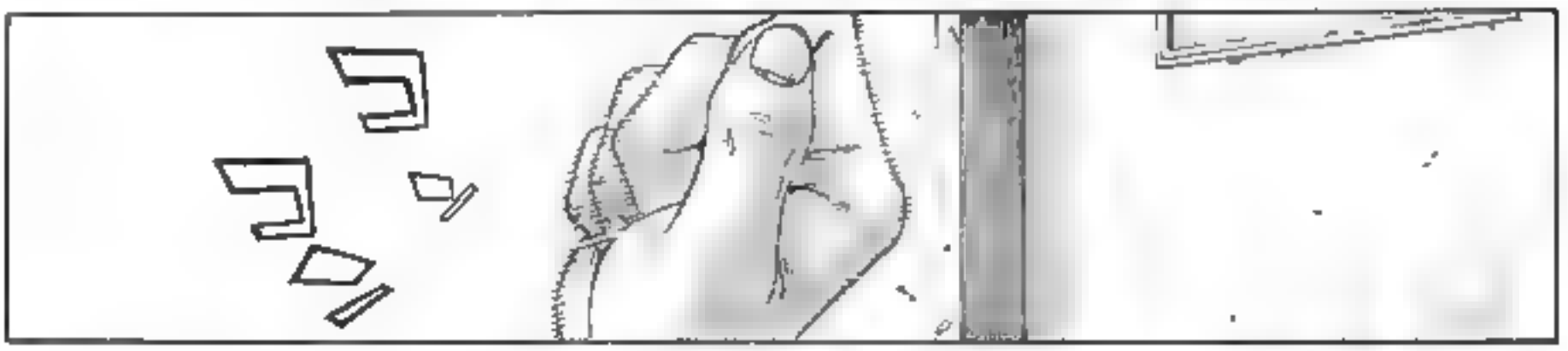
ドン

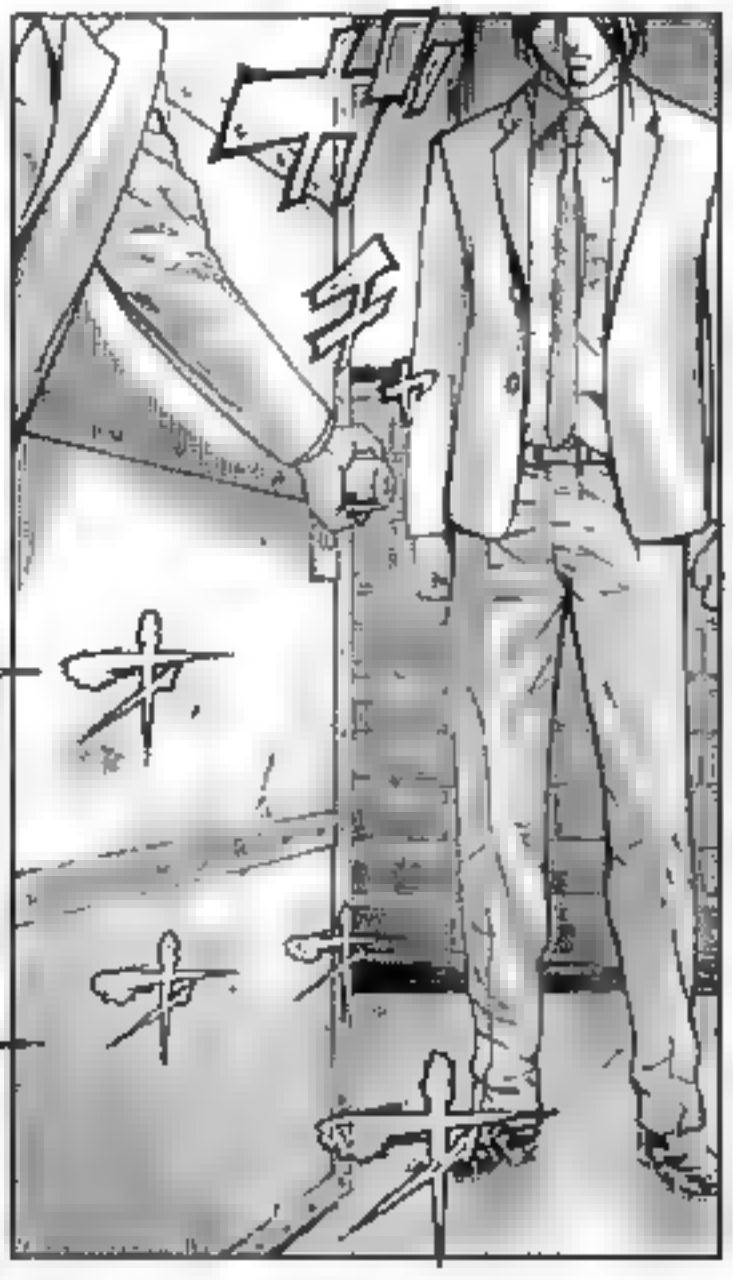
SO-SOUICHI-SAMA!!

!

*ROPPONGI(六本木) MEANS 6 TREES, ARIZUKA(蟻塚) MEANS ANTHILL.

*ROPPONGI, ARIZUKA BUILDING





DON'T TELL ME

WHERE IS USOGUI?

?

HE WAS THE ONE TO HAVE PICKED THIS PLACE, BUT,

CALLING ME TO SUCH A PLACE, AND NOT EVEN SHOWING UP.

HE RAN AWAY?

BAKU-SAN DID NOT RUN AWAY...

HELLO, HELLO.

SO, ABOUT MY NEXT OPPONENT...

.....

USOGUI?

WHERE ARE YOU? WHAT ARE YOU DOING NOW..?

WHAT HAPPENED TO YOUR GAMBLE WITH FUKUROU?

HUH?

I TOLD YOU FUKUROU HAD INVITED YOU TO A GAMBLE... YOU EVEN PICKED THE PLACE FOR THE MATCH..

I THOUGHT THAT YOU WOULD BE HAVING THE MATCH RIGHT NOW

.....

THE POKER JUNKIE,

HE'S BEEN GAMBLING IN KAKEROU MATCHES FOR A LONG TIME.

FUKUROU.

HO...

INSTEAD OF HIM?

SO YOU WILL PLAY

NO ONE HAS EVER HEARD A STORY INVOLVING HIM LOSING A MATCH...

JUST LIKE AN *OWL THAT CAN SEE IN THE DARKNESS, HE COMPLETELY MASTERED THE SKILL TO COMPLETELY SEE THROUGH HIS OPPONENT'S HANDS.

HIS EYES

*"FUKUROU" MEANS "OWL".

KO KO KO KO KO KO

HO HO HO HO HO HO KO KO

NO,

IT TAKES QUITE THE BRUTAL COURAGE TO HAVE A FIGHT WITH ME... SHALL WE INSTEAD CONGRATULATE HIM BY SAVING HIS OWN LIFE WHILE SACRIFICING HIS HONOR?

AND I WAS THINKING WHAT KIND OF PERSON THIS USOGUI,

WHO'S BEEN A HOT TREND RECENTLY, WOULD BE. AND HE JUST RAN AWAY WITH HIS TAIL BETWEEN HIS LEGS?

.....

WHO HAS RELINQUISHED MY KAKEROU MEMBERSHIP?

OR COULD IT BE INSTEAD THAT HE LOST INTEREST IN ME,

.....

IT'S STUD POKER... WE'LL PLAY WITH THIS.

I'LL EXPLAIN THE RULES.

WHAT IS THIS?

AND THE RED CHIP... EACH TIME A PLAYER'S RED CHIP IS TAKEN,

THE WHITE CHIP IS "MONEY".

THERE ARE TWO KINDS OF CHIPS.

THERE IS ONLY ONE BULLET... WE MADE SURE THAT NO ONE CAN FIGURE OUT THE LOCATION OF THE BULLET FROM LOOKING AT IT..

HE'LL HAVE TO PULL THE TRIGGER ONE TIME FOR EACH CHIP TAKEN.

I CAME TO THIS PLACE, WITHOUT EVEN HAVING MY TARGET SHOW UP.

AND IT IS NEITHER A KAKEROU MATCH, NOR IS THERE ANYONE BETTING A MEMBERSHIP.

I WANNA PLAY IT SO BAD THAT IT EVEN HURTS RIGHT NOW.

I AM A JUNKIE WHO CAN ONLY GET HIGH BY PLAYING UNDER SUCH RULES.

BUT, THERE IS SOMETHING I HAVE TO TELL YOU EVEN IF I HAVE TO HOLD ONTO THIS FEELING.

RUSSIAN ROULETTE...

WAIT.

?

YOU ARE ALONE...

MAYBE IT WOULD BE NICE KILLING YOU WITH

DO YOU HAVE WHAT IT TAKES TO EARN THE RIGHT TO SIT?

I AM ALREADY SITTING IN THE POSITION OF A GAMBLER, BUT...

.....

SO YOUNG,

...MAYBE I SHOULD PASS ON PLAYING THIS MATCH?

SOME OTHER GUNS, WOULDN'T IT?

YOU SHOULD

STOP RIGHT THERE.

FIRST OF ALL, LET'S MAKE YOU SHOW US YOUR SHAMELESS FACE.

FIRE.

NO, IT WAS SOMEONE ...

A POWER OUTAGE?

?

PANT

PANT

!

HAVE THE RIGHT TO SIT.

I SEE.

YOU

YOU WEREN'T SUCH AN IDIOT.

FUKUROU IS... TOO DANGEROUS.

CONSIDERING YOUR INTENTIONS, I AVOIDED KILLING FUKUROU, BUT... WAS IT A MISTAKE?

WHY ARE YOU HAVING A MATCH WITH FUKUROU HERE...?

SOUICHI-SAMA,

I WILL... AS HAL...

TIME TO START.

I'LL PUT A CONCLUSION ON IT... BY BETTING ON MY LIFE...

WHEN I WIN,

A FAREWELL TO MYSELF.

THIS GAMBLE IS

OR HACHINA,

NO LONGER AS KIRUMA,

AND THROWING AWAY ALL THE OTHER ROUTES.

INSTEAD TO JUST KEEP LIVING AS "HAL"

THANK YOU FOR THE BOOK, BAKU-SAN.

.....

I'LL BE GOING NOW.

WILL IT BE LONG?

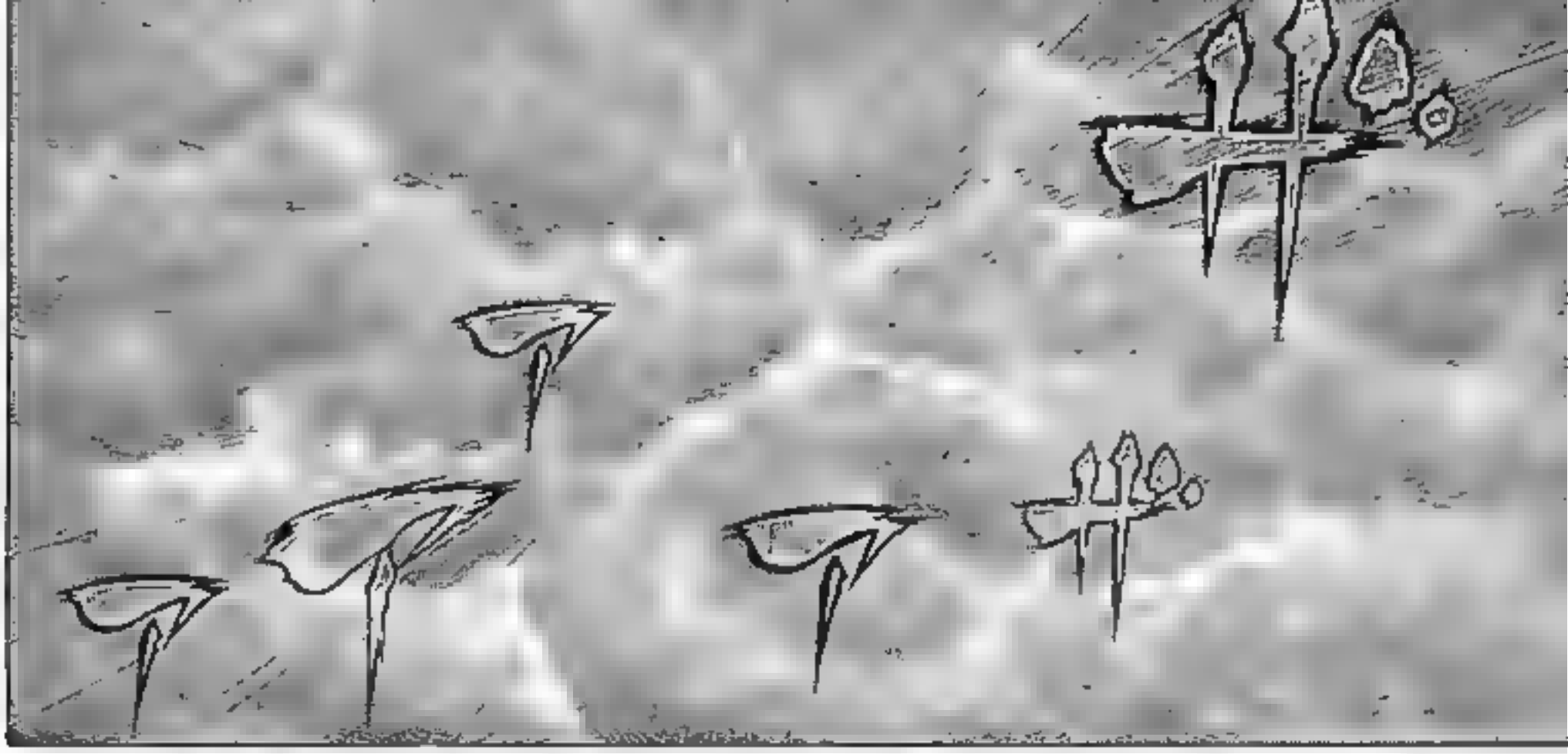
NO,

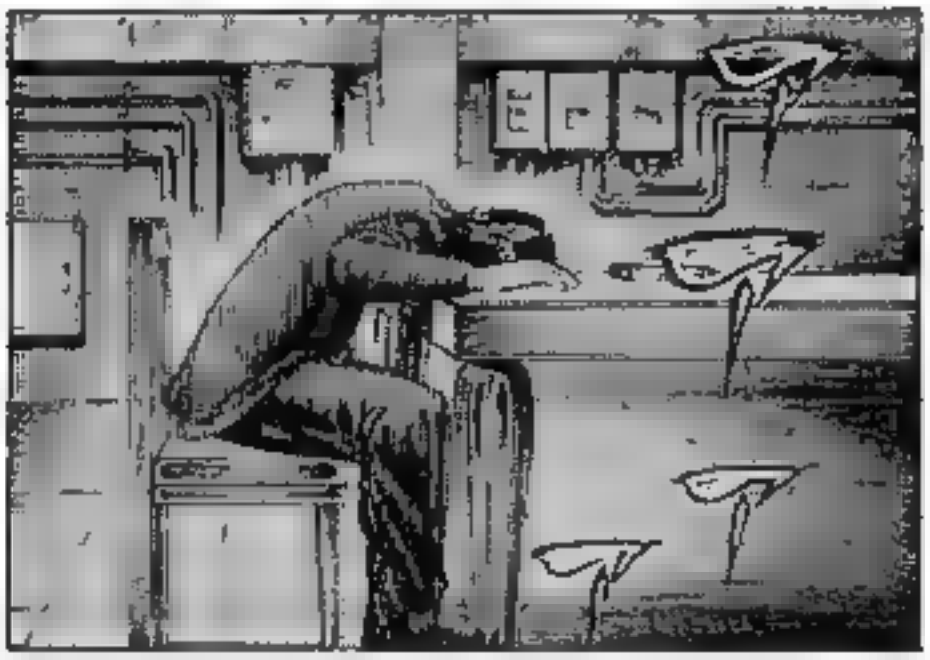
I'LL BE BACK

IMME-DIATELY.

THE NEXT TIME WE MEET...

I'LL BE THE REAL ...





¡HAL...

A REVOLVER...

RUSSIAN ROULETTE...

ONE BULLET...

FAKE BLOOD.

BLOOD ...

SOMEONE

SHOT AT MY HEAD WITH A PAINTBALL...

A PAINT-BALL... MADE OF FAKE BLOOD..

WHEN THE BULLET WAS ABOUT TO BE FIRED...

THE BULLET IS STILL INSIDE...

WITHOUT LETTING ANYONE NOTICE.

COME TO MY PLACE...

WHERE

AM I...?

NOVEM BER 23RD, 1998.

DATE OF RECOR- DING.

IT TOOK ME QUITE AN EFFORT TO LOCATE THE BULLET WITHIN THE REVOLVER...

AT THAT TIME... I WAS SHOT...

WHEN I...

CREATED THE DARKNESS IN THE ROOM...

HOW... SHAME... FUL...

SOU...

ICHI... SAMA...

THAT IS EVERY THING YOU HAVE TO REMEMBER

カ
カ
カ

IF ANYTHING HAPPENS TO ME,

PLEASE GO BACK TO TATSUKI-SAMA'S PLACE, JUST AS IF YOU HAD CAME BACK FROM THE DORMITORY WITHOUT INCIDENT...

SOUICHI-SAMA,

CHAPTER 323
CHAPTER 1, FIN

BUT THE PRINCE BECAME LONELY.

ONE DAY, THE BEES FROM THE NEIGHBORING COUNTRY INVADED THE PRINCE'S CASTLE.

WITH THE HELP OF THE OLD BUTLER BEE, HE FINALLY ESCAPED FROM THE CASTLE.

THIS BEE.

THE PRINCE SAVED A BEE WHO WAS BEING CHASED BY A MANTIS.

ONE DAY,

WHILE LOOKING AT HIS FRIEND WHO LIVES ENERGETICALLY,

HE WAS A LONELY BEE TOO.

WAS JUST LIKE THE PRINCE,

THE PRINCE STARTED THINKING ABOUT THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN BEING KNOWLEDGEABLE AND BEING ABLE TO MAKE GOOD USE OF ONE S KNOWLEDGE.

THEY BECAME FRIENDS.

PRESS

PRESS

ALTHOUGH THE TIME

THEY HUNG AROUND WITH EACH OTHER WAS SHORT,

HAD BEEN FILLED UP BY EACH OTHER.

PRESS

YOU'RE THAT TYPE OF PERSON!?

!

IT'S NO USE EVEN IF YOU MOVE THE CONTROLLER LIKE THAT, HA!!

BUT THE BLANK SPOT IN BOTH OF THEIR HEARTS THAT HAD NEVER BEEN FILLED UNTIL NOW.

BUT SOMEHOW YOU'RE VERY GOOD!

THE PRINCE SENT THE SIGNAL UNDER THE ANTHILL TOWER NEXT TO 6 TREES.

IT WAS THE ASSIGNED PLACE WHERE HE AND THE OLD BUTLER BEE AGREED TO MEET.

THE EXPELLED PRINCE FINALLY ARRIVED AT HIS DESTINATION.

BUT PEACE DIDN'T LAST FOR LONG.

THE NEIGHBORING COUNTRY ATTACKED AGAIN.

THE PRINCE, WHO HAD BECOME STRONG, RETURNED TO THE CASTLE.

THE OTHER PRINCE WHO WAS STANDING IN FRONT OF HIM...

BUT THE PRINCE WAS ASTONISHED.

THEY DECIDED TO SETTLE THE WAR WITH A DUEL BETWEEN THE 2 PRINCES.

AFTER NEGOTIA-TIONS,

THE FRIEND

THE PRINCE OF THE RIVAL COUNTRY.

THE FRIEND WAS ACTUALLY

...WAS THE FRIEND FROM THAT TIME.

THE ENEMY.

WAS ACTUALLY

TRUE,

BONDS... HUH.

I SEE.

"SURPASSING THE LEADER", SHOULD BE.

THAT'S HOW THE ONCE IN-A LIFETIME GAMBLE OF BETTING EVERYTHING...

YES...

WHY DID YOU TAKE PART IN THAT DANGEROUS GAMBLE?

WHAT'S THE THING THAT'S BEEN PUSHING YOU, BAKU-SAN?

SOME THRILLS OR EXCITEMENT, LIKE YOU JUST SAID?

ARE YOU JUST LOOKING FOR

.....

A COMPULSORY REASON... A GREAT PURPOSE...

BUT, THOSE AREN'T THE MOST IMPORTANT MOTIVATIONS.

INDEED, THOSE THINGS CAN PUSH YOU AND LEAD YOU TO VICTORY.

A DESIRE FOR THRILLS, A HUNGER FOR VICTORY... ANYTHING OTHER THAN THOSE...

IS NOT NECESSARY IN GAMBLING!

I'D PROBABLY THINK OF BAKU SAN LIKE THAT

IF I HADN'T MET HIM BEFORE.

HE'S A WORTHLESS MAN... A JUNKIE, ADDICTED TO GAMBLING...

IN THIS WORLD, THERE'S NO SUCH THING.

AS A GAMBLER THAT CAN KEEP ON WINNING.

THERE'S NO ONE FIT FOR GAMBLING.

RAN BACK TO HIS COUNTRY.

UNDER THE CONDITION OF ABDICATION, THE BADLY INJURED FRIEND

THE DUEL ENDED IMME-DIATELY.

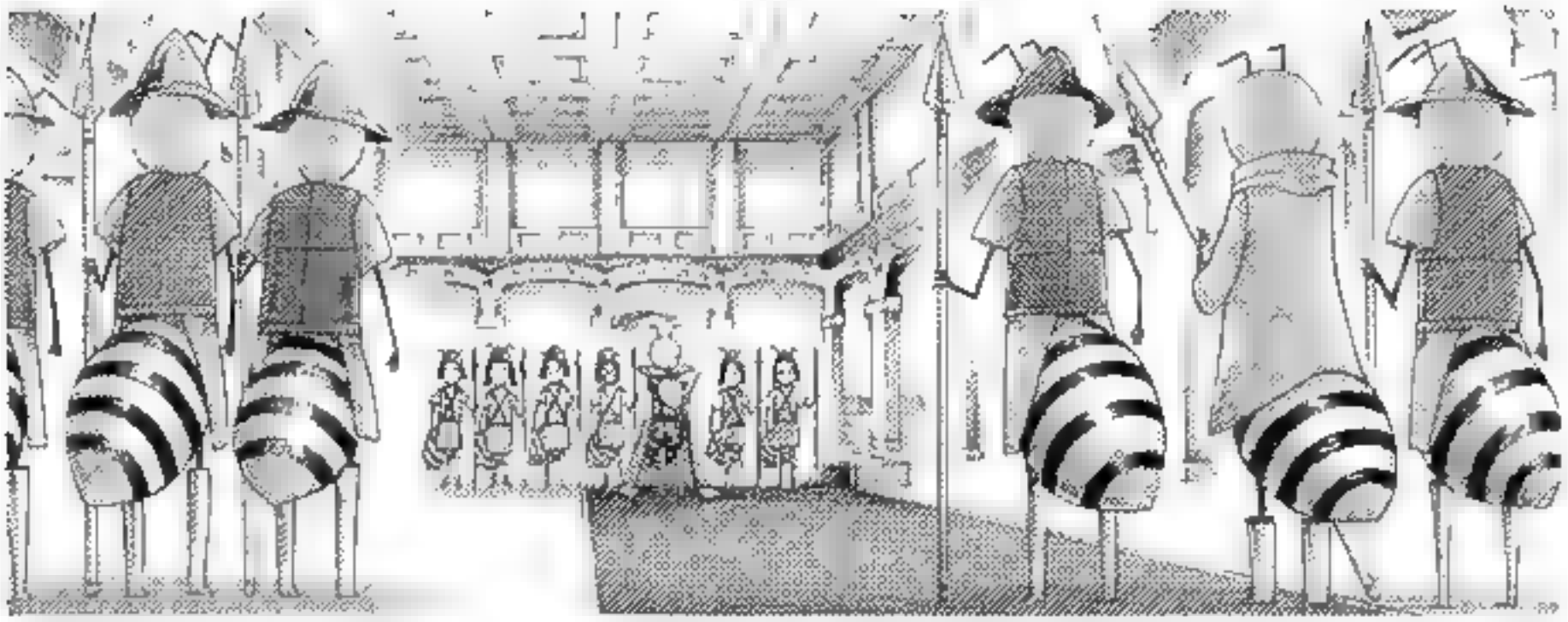
YOU ARE...

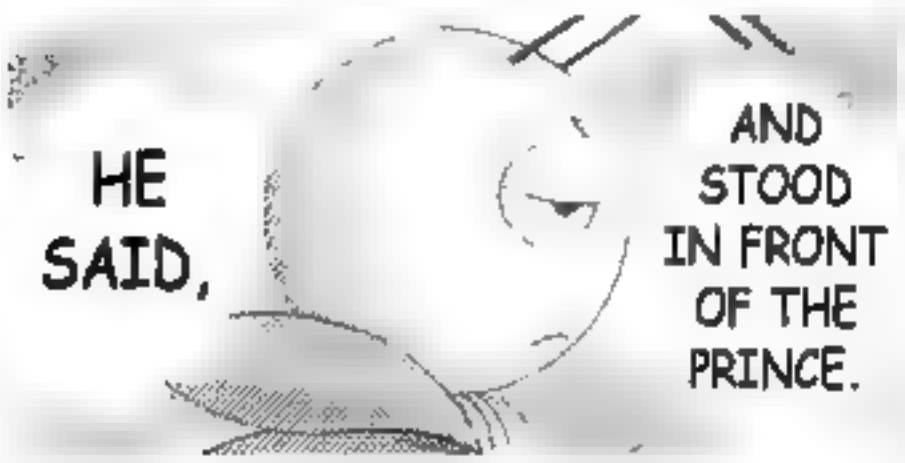
BORING.

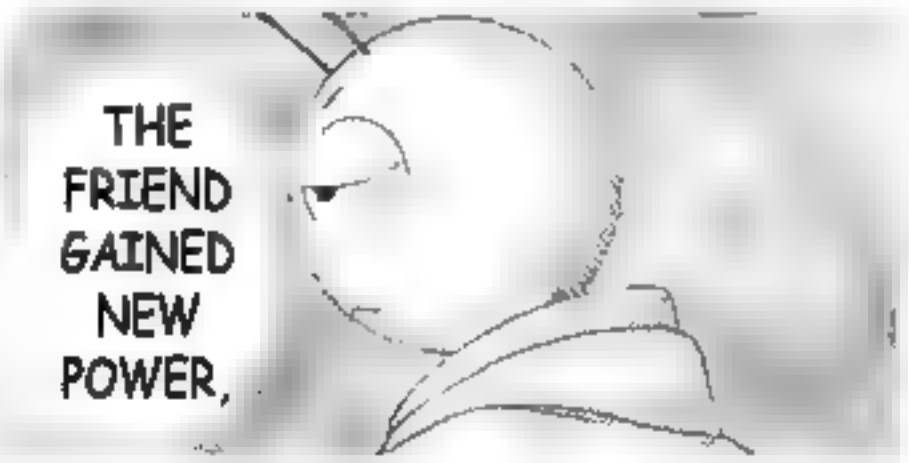
IF I FEEL LIKE IT, I'LL COME TO TAKE YOUR LIFE.

IF IT WAS SOMETHING LIKE POKER, YOU MIGHT HAVE WON EASILY.

A FEW YEARS LATER,







I THREW AWAY THE MEMORIES BETWEEN US AND THE KINDNESS FROM YOU.

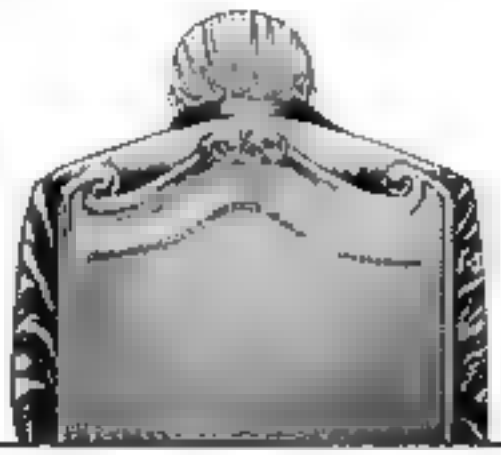
BUT THANKS TO LOSING TO YOU,

LAST TIME, I HESITATED.

BY TAKING ADVANTAGE OF THE LOSS OF THE DUEL.

CUT OFF HIS BONDS WITH THE PRINCE,

THE FRIEND WHO WASN'T ABLE TO FIGHT AGAINST THE PRINCE BEFORE,



IS
A HUNDRED
TIMES MORE
THRILLING,
HAL...

AS AN ENEMY.

ONLY DEEMED THE PRINCE

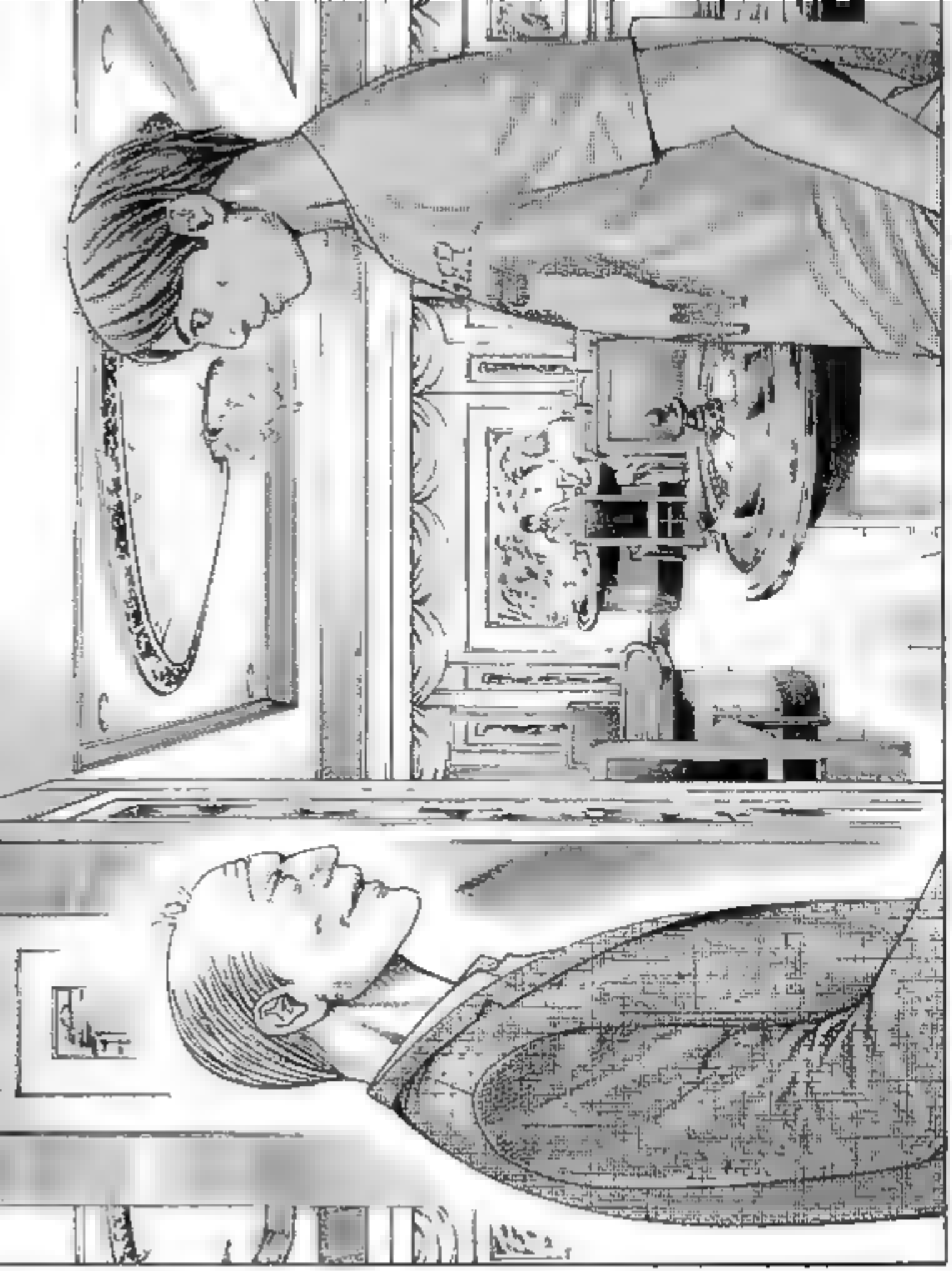
HIS POWERFUL EYES

THE FRIEND HAD CHANGED.

AND FIND OUT WHAT THEY'RE TALKING ABOUT NONCHALANTLY?

CAN YOU GO OVER THERE,

HEY... SEEMS LIKE THEY'RE TALKING ABOUT SOMETHING INTERESTING.



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I AM ONLY THE REFEREE NUMBER ZERO.

DON'T MISUNDER-STAND.

NOT YOUR ALLY.

YOU'RE NOT MY ALLY.

YES,

AS LONG AS YOU'RE... A REFEREE.

HE PREPARED THE ELEMENTS TO FIGHT BACK, ACCUMULATING HIS STRENGTH,

AFTER THE FRIEND LOST HIS THRONE,

WAS JUST ABOUT TO BEGIN.

THE BATTLE OF THE PRINCE'S ADVERSE DESTINY

AND FINALLY STOOD IN FRONT OF THE PRINCE AGAIN.

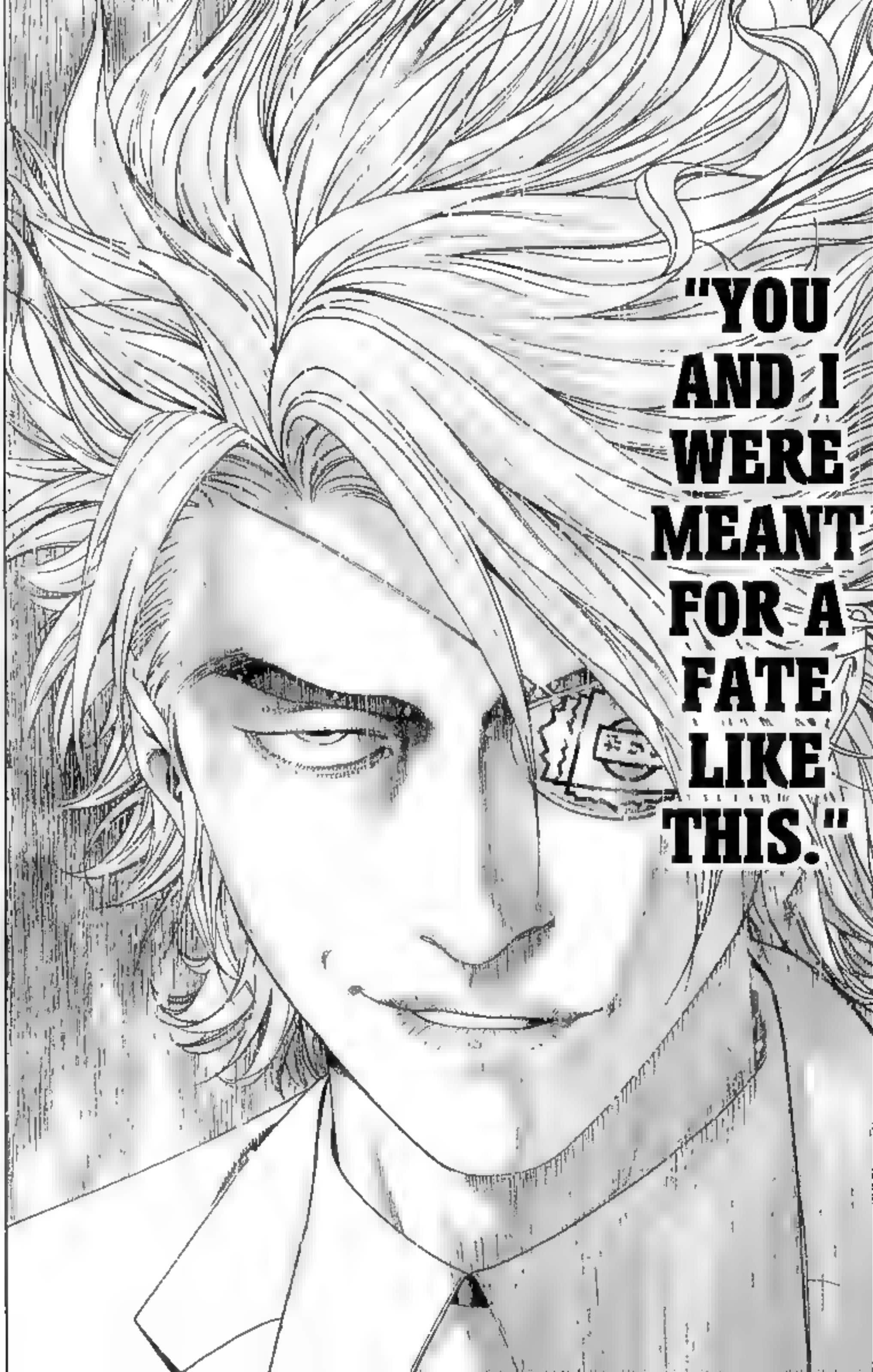
THE PRINCE BEE

CHAPTER 1, FIN

"FELT IT WHEN WE FIRST MET."

"I"

THE FRIEND SAID: "PRINCE,"


"YOU AND I WERE MEANT FOR A FATE LIKE THIS."

CHAPTER 324

INVITATION GO

PRRR

PRRR

.....

THE MYSTERIOUS PARACHUTE YESTERDAY.

WHOSE WAS IT? WHAT WAS IT FOR? WE'RE NOW GOING TO BROADCAST LIVE.

WHERE IS HE AND WHAT IS HE DOING NOW?

HASN'T COME BACK SINCE YESTERDAY. IS HE OKAY?

BAKU-SAN

THIS IS THE VOICE MAIL...

BEEP

HE STILL DIDN'T ANSWER.

PRRR

YOU'RE BACK, BAKU-SAN! YOU STAYED OUT LAST NIGHT?

BAKU-SAN...

DING DONG

.....

.....

HUH?

BAKU-SAMA WILL NEVER COME BACK AGAIN.

AH!

WAIT!!

EXCUSE ME.

WELCOME HOME,

CRACK

CRACK

GOOD.

BAKU-NIICHAN...

CRACK

CRACK

!!

YOU'RE BOTH HERE.

WHAT ARE YOU SAYING!?

WHAT DO YOU MEAN BAKU-SAN WILL NEVER COME BACK...?

WHO EXACTLY ARE...

AH!

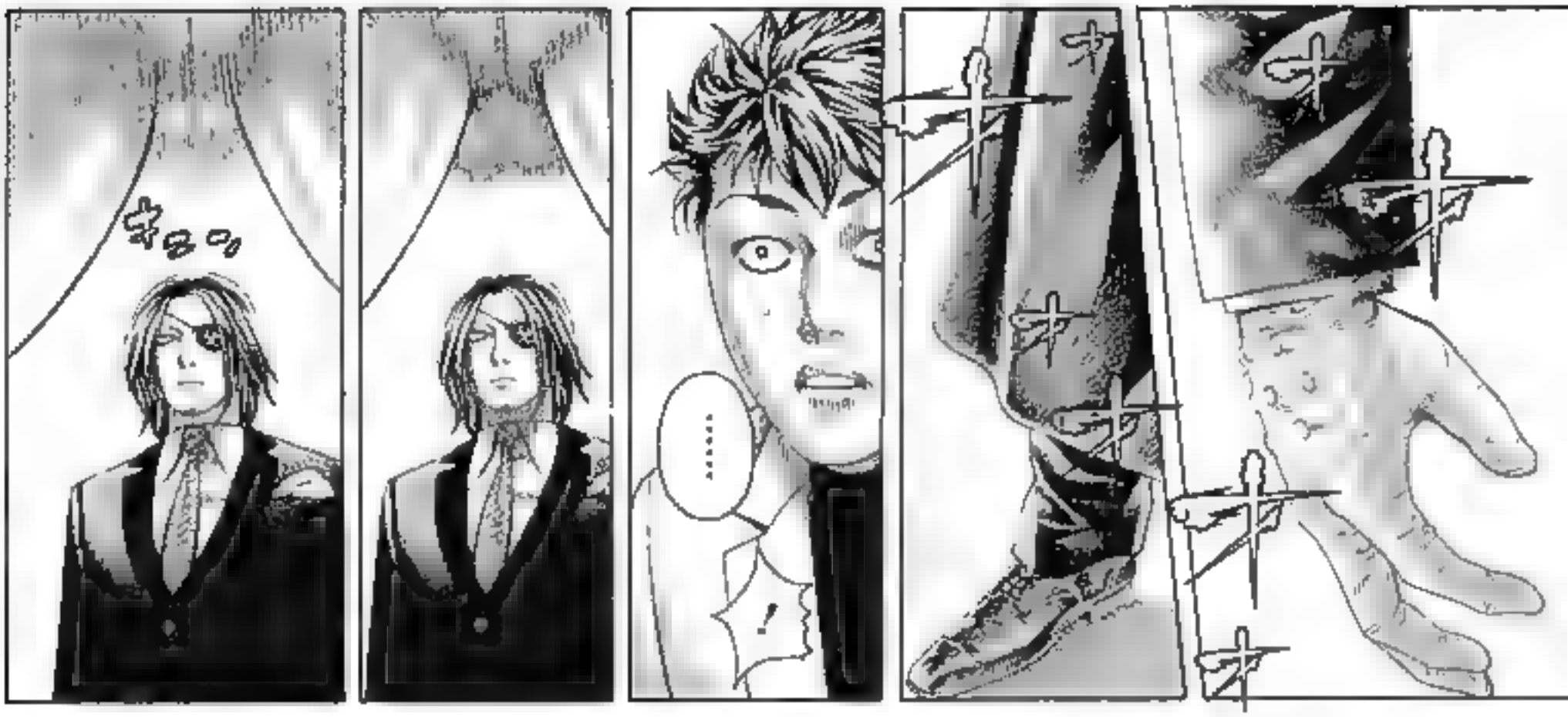
I TOLD YOU NOT TO HAVE CHIPS AFTER A BATH!

MARCO!!

YOU FINISHED 3 BAGS ALREADY!?

BECAUSE... YOU MAY NOT BE ABLE TO EAT IT FOR A LONG TIME... NO, IT COULD BE FOREVER.

EAT WHILE YOU STILL CAN.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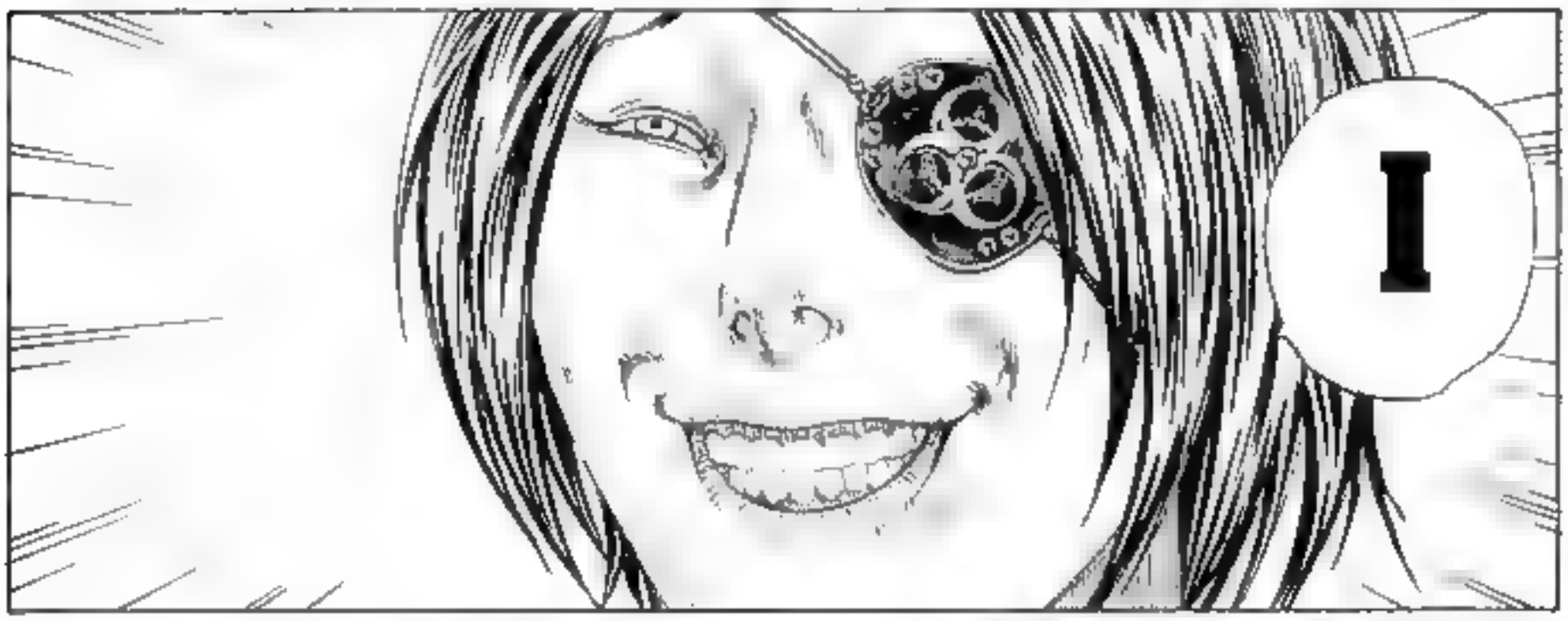
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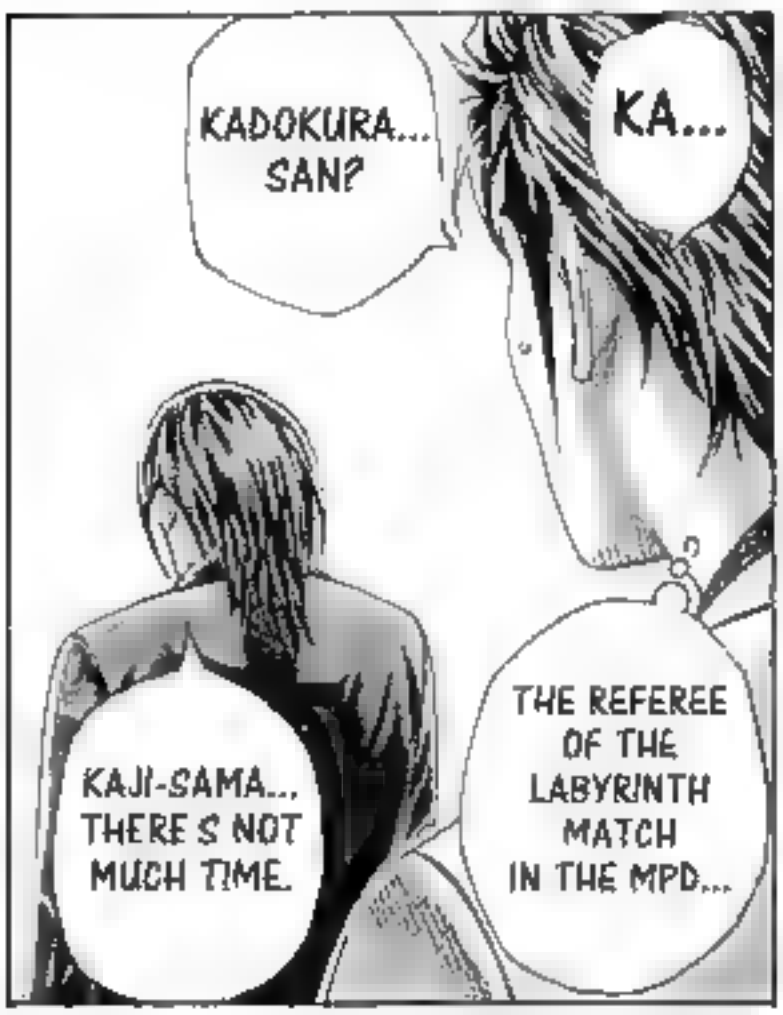

KADOKURA... SAN?
KA...
KAJI-SAMA... THERE S NOT MUCH TIME.
THE REFEREE OF THE LABYRINTH MATCH IN THE MPD...

WHO CAME BACK WITH THE TITLE OF REFEREE NUMBER 2.
AM KADOKURA YUUDAI.
IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME, KAJI SAMA.

THE "권"(BAN) WILL BE POSTED SOON...

B... BAN...?

?

和向奴書房

MADARAME BAKU...

THE DAY BEFORE

LET ME GET TO THE POINT.

BUT IT DOESN'T MATTER... HOW ABOUT THIS?

I LEARNED YOUR NAME FROM SOMEONE A FEW DAYS AGO... ALTHOUGH I'M NOT SURE IF HE WAS TELLING THE TRUTH...

HOW ABOUT WE TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY

ACCORDING TO HIM, I BELIEVE THERE WAS SOMETHING BETWEEN YOU TWO BEFORE.

LET'S HAVE A 3-PARTY TALK WITH HIM RIGHT NOW.

!

PRRRR

PRRRR

PRRRR

.....

TO SETTLE IT?

HACHINA... YOU...

GAKUTO, I'LL EXPLAIN LATER, PLEASE BE QUIET.

PRRRR

PRRR

PRRR

PRRR

PRRR

HELLO.

.....

!

WHAT A SURPRISE.

IT'S KAJI-CHAN...

AH... DON'T MIND ME, PLEASE CONTINUE.

.....

RUSTLE

EXCUSE ME...

I THOUGHT YOU WOULD TURN THE PHONE OFF AND LEAVE IT ASIDE IN ORDER TO NOT BE DETECTED...

I NEVER THOUGHT THAT WE WOULD HAVE ANOTHER CALL AFTER ONLY A DAY...

WHAT A SURPRISE.

THIS IS MERELY A COINCIDENCE.

I RECEIVED THIS CALL THE MOMENT I TURNED MY PHONE ON... I'M SURPRISED TOO.

NO~

ISN'T IT THE SAME WITH YOU?

.....

I'M NOW WITH MADARAME BAKU.

YOU'LL NOW GO ALONE TO A PLACE THAT I'VE CHOSEN.

!! WHAT?

TO MAKE IT SHORT, IS IT ABOUT THE DIAMONDS?

THIS IS YOUR ONLY CHANCE.

LISTEN CAREFULLY,

.....ARE YOU NUTS?

DO YOU KNOW WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT?

BRING THIS CELLPHONE, AND NO WEAPONS.

IN 10 MINUTES.

BUT THE PREMISE IS WHETHER THIS IS REALLY A TRAP OR NOT.

WHO IS IT?

THERE'S NO MORE OBVIOUS TRAP THAN THIS...

NOBODY WILL BLAME YOU FOR THINKING LIKE THAT.

IT'S A REASONABLE JUDGEMENT.

AND IF YOU'RE ALSO IN A SITUATION WHERE YOU CAN BE AT THE ASSIGNED PLACE ON TIME, IT'LL BE A MIRACLE..

I WANT TO HAVE A TALK WITH YOU AND MADARAME BAKU... I'LL GUARANTEE YOUR PERSONAL SAFETY

THIS IS NOT A TRAP.

BUT,

IT WAS BECAUSE WE TURNED ON OUR PHONES SO COINCIDENTALLY THAT WE'RE ABLE TO TALK NOW

IF YOU CAN FIND SOMEONE WITH YOUR VOICE AND HAVE HIM BRING THE CELLPHONE IN 10 MINUTES, THEN I'LL GIVE YOU THAT

AREN'T YOU BEING TOO ARBITRARY?

BESIDES, THERE'S NO GUARANTEE THAT THE ONE THAT SHOWS UP IS THE REAL ME.

I'LL SAY THIS ONE MORE TIME, THIS IS YOUR ONLY CHANCE... THERE WON'T BE ANOTHER ONE...

FOR THE FIRST TIME...

.....

COMPARED TO THE FEAR OF RUNNING INTO A STRANGE PLACE ALONE,

I FEEL HORRIBLE ABOUT MYSELF.

RIGHT NOW...

AND I WILL NOT

IF YOU MAKE A REASONABLE JUDGEMENT RIGHT NOW, I'LL GIVE UP MY CHANCE TO MEET YOU.

I'LL THROW AWAY THIS CELLPHONE, AND THE CONNECTION BETWEEN US WILL BE GONE.

HAVE ANY CONTACT WITH YOU ANYMORE.

AND ABOUT THE DIAMONDS... PLEASE GIVE UP.

THE DESTI-NATION

HAS BEEN CHANGED.

A MUCH BIGGER INTEREST IS DOMINATING ME.

AH, THAT SCARED ME.

JUST WHEN I WAS THINKING THAT A PARACHUTE SUDDENLY

"A... A SHADOW?"

NICE TO MEET YOU.

I AM...

THE MAN WHO LEADS IDEAL,

VINCENT

LALO.

CHAPTER 325

卍(BAN)

CHAPTER 325

卍(BAN)

MAY I SIT HERE,

AH...

SURE, SURE.

GENTLE-MEN?

EXCU-

THEN,

LET'S SAY THAT...

I REALLY BROUGHT A GUN, WHAT WOULD YOU DO?

YOU TOLD ME TO COME UNARMED PREVIOUSLY ON THE PHONE, BUT,

AREN'T YOU GOING TO CHECK IF I REALLY DIDN'T BRING ANYTHING?

EXCUSE ME,

THERE IS SOMETHING I NEED TO ASK BEFORE SITTING.

!!

AND EVEN IF I HAVE TO GAIN THE RIGHT TO CHALLENGE SURPASSING THE LEADER,

MY OBJECTIVE IS TO GAIN POSSESSION OF CLUB KAKEROU,

WAS IT AN IRRELEVANT QUESTION?

MADARAME BAKU... I BELIEVE WE COULD SAY THE SAME FOR YOU....

I UNDERSTAND THAT I WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO OBTAIN THE LOYALTY OF TALENTED PEOPLE, INCLUDING REFEREES, WERE I TO OBTAIN KAKEROU BY VIOLENCE AND DOMINATION.

I'M NOT PLANNING TO GAIN THAT RIGHT BY HARMING ANY OF YOU DIRECTLY... I COULD EVEN SAY THAT THIS WOULD RENDER MY MISSION MORE DIFFICULT TO REALIZE.

ORIGINALLY, THE PEOPLE WHO DID BOTHER YOU TWO FROM TIME TO TIME WERE THE MEMBERS OF MY OWN ORGANIZATION.

IT'S NOT LIKE I HAVE ONE TO HATE YOU.

EVEN IF YOU TWO HAVE SOME REASONS TO HATE ME,

MY OWN SAFETY.

WHAT I HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT THE MOST IS...

嘘吐い㉟。

YET,

!

ニヤ

ニヤ

スー…

I AM SOMEONE WHO CANNOT SAY ANYTHING IF YOU TWO WERE TO COME AT ME.

OF COURSE... I WILL FOLLOW THE RULES.

I CAN TRUST YOU, RIGHT?

YOU AND I... AND MADARAME BAKU, WE ARE ALL EQUAL IN THIS ROOM.

WHAT IF SOMETHING HAPPENS TO ME...?

スー…

OK, UNDER-STOOD.

ANYONE WHO TRIES TO HARM YOU WILL BE HARMED IN THE SAME WAY.

WHAT?

THE REASON I CAME HERE FEARFULLY WAS

BECAUSE YOU TOLD ME YOU WOULD GUARANTEE MY SAFETY.

OUCH!!
.....
.....

IS THAT A PIN? SOUNDS LIKE THE PRANK MARCO USUALLY DOES.
OH...? WHAT... WHAT HAP-PENED?
WHAT IS THIS!?
RIGHT AFTER I SAID IT!
OH MY GOD! THIS... THIS IS...

I'LL HAVE HIM TAKE RESPONSIBILITY FOR MAKING A MESS OUT OF YOUR CHAIR.
I THINK I HEARD A CLUNKING NOISE BEFORE.
IT SEEMS THIS WAS PLACED BY MADARAME BAKU...
!

YOU ARE THE ONE WHO MADE THE PROMISE WITH ME.

IT'S YOUR CHOICE TO HAVE USOGUI DO IT, BUT,

WAIT.

KU...

...

THE ONE WHO SHOULD TAKE RESPON SIBILITY IS THE ONE WHO MADE THE PROMISE..

IT SHOULD BE YOU, SHOULDN'T IT?

AH...

AH~

?°

アス

HAA...

.....

HA...

.....

YEAH...

YOU SHOULD HAVE MINDED YOUR OWN BUSINESS..

.....

SO,

SHOULD WE START SOON?

HAHA HA...

HA...

THESE TWO...

...AS I THOUGHT, IT REALLY ISN'T A TRAP...!?

HOWEVER, ONE OF THE ENTRY CONDITIONS, 50 BILLION YEN, HAS BEEN STOLEN BY MR. LALO,

AM I CORRECT?

YES.

MADARAME BAKU... YOU HAVE OBTAINED THE RIGHT TO CHALLENGE SURPASSING THE LEADER.

YOU CAN NOT CHALLENGE SURPASSING THE LEADER.

SO EVEN THOUGH YOU HAVE THE 50 BILLION YEN,

THE ONE WHO OBTAINED THE RIGHT THROUGH THE OFFICIAL PROCESS IS MADARAME BAKU.

MR. LALO,

ONE CHANCE.

I'LL GIVE YOU

HOWEVER, IF WE KEEP GOING THIS WAY, THIS CONVERSATION WILL END NOW... AND THIS MEETING WILL BECOME MEANINGLESS.

IT IS IMPOSSIBLE FOR YOU TO ANNOUNCE YOUR CANDIDACY FOR IT.

IT SEEMS LIKE IT INDEED.

I'LL HAVE YOU PLAY A GAME.

JUST LIKE THE REAL SURPASSING THE LEADER, I'LL HAVE YOU BET EVERYTHING YOU HAVE... OF COURSE, INCLUDING THAT 50 BILLION YEN.

I THINK THIS IS QUITE A GREAT DEAL FOR THE TARGET WE WANT TO PURGE, TO BE ALLOWED TO CUT INTO THIS CASE.

MEANING I'LL HAVE TO BET THE MONEY TWO TIMES IN A ROW... THIS IS TOO RISKY.

WHAT IF I REFUSE?

IF YOU ARE ABLE TO CLEAR THIS GAME,

.....

I'LL ACCEPT YOUR CHALLENGE OF SURPASSING THE LEADER.

MADARA-ME BAKU WILL

GAIN THE RIGHT TO CHALLENGE SURPASSING THE LEADER.

WHAT I WANT TO SAY IS THAT, IF YOU REFUSE TO PLAY THIS GAME,

I CAN EVEN LOAN HIM THE MONEY.

THAT'S EASY TO DEAL WITH.

BUT, HE DOES NOT HAVE THE 50 BILLION?

IT'S MY FAULT THAT I LOST BOTH MY LEFT EYE AND THE 50 BILLION.

I DON'T PLAN ON YOU GIVING ME CHARITY.

ALL THE THINGS I LOST,

I'LL GET BACK TENFOLD

.....

YOU'D BE ANNOUNCING THAT YOU'RE QUITTING YOUR OBJECTIVE OF GAINING THE LEADERSHIP OF KAKEROU.

I DON'T NEED SUCH A THING.

YOU CONTINUING TO PLAY THE GOOD BOY IS REALLY BOTHERING ME.

WITH A GAMBLE!

OF COURSE, I'LL ENSURE ITS FAIRNESS.

I'LL START THINKING OF THE GAME'S CONTENTS "AFTER BOTH OF YOU AGREE TO PLAY".

THIS IS ABSURD.

.....

WHAT WILL THE GAME BE?

.....

I WILL NOT SAY YES UNTIL I KNOW WHAT KIND OF GAMBLE WE WILL PLAY AND WHERE WE'LL PLAY IT.

IF YOU KEEP GOING ON LIKE THIS, NEITHER OF YOU WILL CLEAR ALL THE CONDITIONS REQUIRED TO CHALLENGE SURPASSING THE LEADER.

MADARAME BAKU, VINCENT LALO,

I AM THE ONE HERE MEETING YOU HALFWAY.

BOTH OF YOU... DO NOT MISUNDER-STAND.

BUT ONLY ONE THING IS CLEAR.

THE GAME'S DETAILS HAVEN'T BEEN DECIDED,

I AM THE ONE WHO GETS TO DECIDE THE RULES.

POST THE 卍(BAN).

WE WILL

卍
(BAN)

MEANS TO JUMBLE TOGETHER FREELY.

ALL PLAYERS ARE ABLE TO CALL THEIR REFEREES TO DUEL WITH THEIR OPPONENTS.

KAKEROU WILL ONLY PROVIDE A FIXED NUMBER OF REFEREES, WHO WILL BE PRESIDING ALL THE GAMBLES.

IT'S ONE OF THE SYSTEMS PROVIDED BY KAKEROU WHERE GAMBLES WILL BE PLAYED UNDER FIXED RULES.

ALL PLAYERS ARE ABLE TO GAMBLE AS MUCH AS THEY WANT, IN A LIMITED TIME AND LOCATION.

ONE CAN NEVER GO FURTHER THAN THE POSTED 卍(BAN) CARDS WHICH INDICATE THE BOUNDARIES.

卍

POSTING THE 卍(BAN)... IN OTHER WORDS,

A LIMITED LOCATION... MEANS THAT PLAYERS ARE FORBIDDEN FROM STEPPING OUT OF THE BOUNDARIES SET.

卍

卍

卍

卍

POSTING THE...

卍 (BAN)...

YOU MEAN THAT BAKU-SAN WILL SOON .. BE PLAYING IN SUCH A LOCATION?

THIS SYSTEM ALLOWS MANY VARIATIONS OF GAMBLES TO BE PLAYED.

THAT'S WHAT POSTING THE 卍(BAN) MEANS.

TO DECIDE ONE VICTOR.

WE GENERALLY USE IT WHEN MANY PLAYERS WANT TO GAMBLE TOGETHER AT THE SAME TIME.

IT LOOKS LIKE THERE ARE NO MORE OBJECTIONS.

MADARAME BAKU-KUN.

THEN, LET'S DECIDE THE RULES.

CALL A REFEREE.

PREDICAMENTS AND TROUBLESOME SITUATIONS ARE BETTER FALLING ON US FROM EXTERNAL CAUSES THAN DONE BY ONESELF

IN A SENSE, KAKEROU MATCHES ARE EXTREME PREDICA-MENTS.

THERE ISN'T ANYONE IN THIS WORLD

WHO WISHES TO GET INTO PREDICA-MENTS BY THEM-SELVES.

WELL,

AND REFEREES ARE

PEOPLE WITH AN UNUSUAL TASTE, WHO APPRECIATE GETTING INTO PREDICAMENTS...

CHAPTER 326

"TIME", "MEN", "LOCATION"

THEY SHOULD BE

CHAPTER 326

"TIME", "MEN", "LOCATION"

LEA-
!?

I'M KAKEROU REFEREE NO.28...

HM, HM.

PAR-PARDON ME, NICE TO MEET YOU.

REFEREE ...

WHAT DID YOU COME HERE FOR?

AND...

.....

MY APOLOGIES... I'M REFEREE NO.28, MIDARA YUUSUKE.

FOR PRESIDING THE MATCH.

IT'S LEADER... WHY IS HE HERE...

WELL, HOW SHOULD I PUT IT... HE'S SELF APPOINTED, BUT.

WELL, HE IS, YOU KNOW...

REFEREE MIDARA, HE IS VINCENT LALO.

?

?

LEA...
LEADE...

LEA-?

WHAT!?

!!

I SEE...

THE BOSS OF IDEAL?

WHAT...

DID YOU JUST SAY... BAKU-SAMA. .?

WHA...

YOUR ROLE HERE IS NEITHER TO COMMUNICATE ANY INFORMATION, MAKE A MESS OUT OF THE SITUATION, OR EVEN TO BE FLUSTERED.

GOING TO HAVE A KAKEROU MATCH WITH MADARAME BAKU... IN OTHER WORDS,

WHOEVER HE MIGHT BE, RIGHT NOW, YOU HAVE TO TREAT HIM AS NOTHING MORE THAN A PLAYER.

THIS MAN IS THE BOSS OF IDEAL.

LIKE I SAID,

REFEREE MIDARA, HE IS RIGHT NOW,

.....

YOUR ROLE IS TO TAKE CHARGE OF THE ROOM AS A REFEREE.

...HAVE YOU DECIDED THE GAME'S DETAILS?

NOT YET.

ONLY ONE THING IS DECIDED AS OF NOW.

THE WINNER OF THIS FIGHT WILL THEN PLAY SURPASSING THE LEADER WITH ME.

ALSO, MR. LALO WILL BE BETTING EVERYTHING HE HAS IN THIS FIGHT... IF HE LOSES,

!

WE WILL POST THE 卍(BAN).

卍 (BAN)...

LALO-SAMA,

LEADER WANTS TO HAVE THEM BOTH FIGHT FOR THE RIGHT... AND THEN HAVE IDEAL, WHO HAS BEEN A PAIN IN THE ASS FOR A LONG TIME, BEAR ALL RISKS AND IF THINGS GO WELL, DISAPPEAR...

HE WILL DIE.

.....

SUCH A SCARY STORY.

OKAY.

LALO-SAMA,

IT WILL BE A SELF-ASSESSMENT, BUT YOU WILL NOW NEED TO LET US CHECK ALL OF YOUR ASSETS, ORGANIZATIONS AND AUTHORITY IN YOUR POSSESSION AT THE MOMENT, REGARDING YOU GAMBLING EVERYTHING.

ALL PERSONAL COMMUNICATION IS FORBIDDEN.

WE WILL CHECK BY OURSELVES ONCE YOU INSTRUCT US THE WAY TO DO IT.

PLEASE LEAVE YOUR MOBILE PHONE ON THE TABLE.

IN ORDER TO PREVENT THE MOVEMENT AND CONCEALMENT OF ASSETS, AND ALSO THE LEAKAGE OF THIS CONVERSATION, OR EVEN THE LOCATION OF THIS ROOM, I WILL NOW CHECK EVERYTHING.

FROM NOW ON,

SAME FOR YOU, BAKU-SAMA.

ONLY THE DECIDED PLAYERS ARE ALLOWED TO ENTER THE 卍(BAN).

IF WE LEAK THE LOCATION OF THE 卍(BAN), THERE MIGHT BE INTRUDERS.

SO THE GAME'S CONTENTS AND ITS LOCATION, THE PEOPLE WHO WILL KNOW IT WILL ONLY BE...

WHAT IS LEADER'S OBJECTIVE ...?

THE GAMBLE WILL START IMMEDIATELY JUST LIKE THAT... AND THEN THE 卍(BAN) WILL BE POSTED...

LOCKING THE TWO OF THEM INTO THE 卍(BAN)...?

IS HE TRYING TO BUY SOME TIME BY...

WHAT IS HE THINKING...? WHAT IS HE TRYING TO ACHIEVE BY POSTING THE 卍(BAN)...?

THE PARTICI-PATING REFEREES AND,

AS WELL AS THE 4 OF US.

ALL THE PLAYERS,

YES.

I'LL LEAVE THE CHECKING TO YOU.

WHAT EXACTLY... IS THIS SITUATION, LEADER...

DO NOT ENTER THIS ROOM... EVER.

PLEASE CONTACT ME ON MY PHONE IF THERE IS ANYTHING.

MEMORY?

WENT BACK TO THE PERIOD OF TIME FROM BEFORE HE WAS EVEN KAKEROU'S LEADER.

YES.

THIS IS QUITE A DELICATE SITUATION. THE MEMORY LOSS, AND HIS DISAPPEARANCE, ARE ONLY KNOWN BY A FEW OF US.

LEADER'S MEMORY RIGHT NOW HAS PROBABLY

.....

OKAY...

WE HAVE TO LOOK FOR LEADER WITHOUT ANYONE GUESSING OUR INTENTIONS... PLEASE LET ME KNOW IMMEDIATELY AFTER FINDING HIM.

THIS SECRET CAN NEVER BE ALLOWED TO BE LEAKED.

THANK YOU FOR WAITING.

SO HE IS AWARE THAT HE IS THE CURRENT LEADER OF KAKEROU.

THE MYSTERY KEEPS GETTING BIGGER... AND YET,

YET, HE ALSO SAID "THE WINNER WILL PLAY SURPASSING THE LEADER WITH ME"...

LEADER CALLED ME BY MY NAME, AFTER I INTRODUCED MYSELF.... UP TILL THEN, HE HAD BEEN ONLY CALLING ME "REFEREE"... IT SEEMS LIKE HE DID LOSE HIS MEMORIES...

GULP

ONE OF THEM WILL... BITE THE DUST...

THERE ARE NOT MUCH PEOPLE

THAT CAN PULL OFF SUCH AN AIR OF SELF IMPORTANCE WITHOUT DOING ANYTHING.

HOW DO I PUT THIS...

IT'S LIKE THEIR STANCES MAKE ALL OF THAT BECOME MEANINGLESS...

THERE ARE 3 CARDS HERE.

INDICATES THE LOCATION WHERE THE 卍(BAN) WILL BE POSTED.

"LOCATION"

IT INDICATES THE NUMBER OF PLAYERS, MEANING THE ALLIES, WHO WILL ENTER THE 卍(BAN).

THEN, "MEN".

IT INDICATES THE DURATION OF TIME SPENT IN THE 卍(BAN).

THE FIRST ONE IS "TIME".

刻地

PICK UP "TIME", AND YOU WILL BE ABLE TO SET THE DURATION OF THE WHOLE GAME.

PICK UP "MEN", AND YOU WILL GET THE RIGHT TO SELECT THE NUMBER OF ALLIES WHO WILL GO IN WITH YOU.

YOU TWO WILL PICK UP ONE CARD.

I'LL DECIDE BOTH THE "LOCATION" AND THE "RULES" OF THIS GAME.

AS A THIRD PARTY, THE REFEREE, I'LL SET THIS GAME FAIRLY.

HOWEVER, I WILL BE THE ONE TO SELECT "LOCATION".

CAN I JUST CHECK ONE THING?

SURPASSING THE LEADER WILL BE PLAYED RIGHT AFTER THIS GAME ENDS.

IS OUR UNDER-STANDING

THE SAME?

YES.

I PROMISE THAT.

SO,

LET'S DRAW THE CARDS.

FINALLY, MADARAME BAKU.

LET'S DO OUR BEST EXCHANGING DEATH BLOWS WITH EACH OTHER.

YOU.. HAVE BEEN UNBELIEVABLY REFRESHING SINCE THE START..

IF NOT,
IT WILL BE A HUGE
DISADVANTAGE
FOR HIM
IF LALO CHOOSES
A WAY HIGHER
NUMBER OF
PARTNERS THAN
HE CAN BRING.

USOGUI,
WHO HAS A
LIMITED CIRCLE
OF ALLIES
RIGHT NOW,
WOULD WANT
TO DRAW THE
"MEN".

IN SUCH A
SITUATION
WHERE THE
GAME'S
CONTENTS
ARE
PRACTICALLY
UNKNOWN,

A MAN
WHO IS
HIDING
SEVERAL
INTENTIONS.

MANY
OBJECTIVES
AND
INTENTIONS
ARE HIDDEN

.....

刻

WITHIN THE
UPCOMING.
UNKNOWN
DEVELOPMENT
OF THIS
STORY.

AND.
A MAN
TRYING TO
PUT HIS
INTENTIONS
INTO

THE CARD
DRAWN BY
HIS HAND.

WILL BE
ABLE TO
CLEAN UP
ALL THE
PROBLEMS
AHEAD.

MAYBE
ONLY
THOSE
KINDS
OF
PEOPLE

AND.
A MAN WHO
IS PRECISELY
ABLE TO SEE
THE LIGHT

IF...

EXISTING
IN
PREDICA-
MENTS.

CHAPTER 327
THE SWEEP PLAN

SO...
BOTH OF YOU
HAVE DRAWN
A CARD.

LALO-SAMA'S
IS "MEN",
WHICH MEANS
THAT HE CAN
DECIDE THE NUMBER
OF ALLIES
IN THIS MATCH.

WHICH MEANS
THAT HE CAN
DECIDE THE
TIME DURATION
OF THIS MATCH.

刻

BAKU-
SAMA'S IS
"TIME",

I'LL PROVIDE
A LOCATION AND
DECIDE ON RULES THAT
WILL BE SUITABLE FOR
THE NUMBER OF PLAYERS
AND THE TIME
YOU TWO DECIDE.

地

MINE IS
"LOCATION".

1...
MONTH...

TO 1 MONTH.

CAN I SET THE TIME TO ANY AMOUNT I WANT? IS THERE A LIMIT?

APPROXI-MATELY, FROM 24 HOURS,

PLEASE SET IT REASON-ABLY.

WHAT'S WRONG, BAKU-SAMA?

.....

NO-THING.

YOU SEE.. IT WILL BE LIKE THIS:

BUT HOW DO I PUT THIS... I FEEL I CAN SORT OF PREDICT WHAT IT'LL BE LIKE.

THIS IS MY FIRST TIME POSTING THE "卍 (BAN)", SO I'M REALLY EXCITED.

AND THEN HOLD A GAMBLING MATCH WHICH WILL BE DECIDED RIGHT THERE, RIGHT?

AND WHEN THEY MEET EACH OTHER, THEY CALL THEIR REFEREES IMMEDIATELY,

LETTING THE PLAYERS ENTER A LOCATION,

AND SET THE "RULE" AS "HEADING TOWARDS THE EXIT".

IF WE DEFINE THE 1:1 MAZE AS THE ARENA OF "卍(BAN)".

I KNOW WHAT YOU'RE TRYING TO SAY

I KNOW~

BUT WHAT I WANT TO ASK IS...

ALTHOUGH THE SCALE OF THE MATCH THIS TIME IS DIFFERENT,

THAT'S JUST ONE OF THE ELEMENTS.

FOR EXAMPLE, THE "M GAME" WHICH WAS PROPOSED BY REFEREE KADOKURA.

THEY WILL GAMBLE THROUGH THE REFEREES.

WHEN 2 PLAYERS MEET IN A ROOM,

I DON'T WANT IT TO BE SUCH A "COMMON" GAMBLE LIKE THAT, WHERE YOU CAN PREDICT THE GAME OR THE PLACE! YOU KNOW WHAT I'M SAYING, CHAN-MIDA?

"SOLVING THE MAZE AND HEADING TOWARDS THE EXIT",

YES!! THAT'S IT!

IS WHERE TO POST THE "卍(BAN)" SO THAT YOU TWO, WHO ARE ARROGANT BULLIES,

WHAT I'M THINKING RIGHT NOW

CAN FIGHT EACH OTHER DESPERATELY AND RECKLESSLY...

ABOUT FULFILLING BAKU-SAMA'S EXPECTATIONS.

I KNOW, BAKU-SAMA.

SINCE WE'VE DECIDED "THE RULES AND THE LOCATION WILL BE SET BY ME, WHO'S A THIRD PARTY", THE FAIRNESS CAN BE GUARANTEED.

I HAVE NO INTEREST IN IT AT ALL.

THE MATCH HELD BY REFEREE MAKURO AND REFEREE NOWA A FEW DAYS AGO,

IS ALSO A TEST FOR A REFEREE'S WISDOM.

"WHERE TO POST THE 卍(BAN)"

I DON'T WANT THE PLACE TO BE SOME "COMMON" PLACE LIKE AN APARTMENT OR A CASINO.

AND OF COURSE...

THEY DECIDED TO POST THE 卍(BAN) IN THAT PLACE. I HEARD THAT IT WAS QUITE THRILLING SINCE THEY HAD TO PLAY THE MATCH WHILE AVOIDING BEING NOTICED BY OTHER CONGRESSMEN AND THE GUARDS WHO WERE AWARE OF NOTHING.

ONE OF THE PLAYERS WAS A CONGRESSMAN, AND SINCE THE "TIME" WAS DURING THE SESSION,

WAS ALSO A 卍(BAN) MATCH.

*THIS BUILDING IS THE JAPANESE CONGRESS.

IT HAS TO BE A PLACE THAT IS SUITABLE FOR THE NUMBER OF PLAYERS AND THE TIME OF THE MATCH.

SO... WHEN DECIDING THE "LOCATION",

I'M SORRY, BUT FULFILLING THE EXPECTATIONS OF YOU TWO IS SECONDARY...

PLEASE BLAME IT ON THE FACT THAT I'M THE ONE WHO SHOWED UP...

I ALSO WANT TO POST THE 卍(BAN) IN AN UNPRECEDENTED PLACE.

THE DEADLINE WILL BE 12/31.

SO CAN I HAVE YOU TWO DECIDE THE "TIME" AND THE "MEN" FIRST?

NO,

IT'S LONGER THAN I THOUGHT IT'D BE.

I WAS GOING TO SET A LONGER TIME FOR YOU, BUT THIS WILL BE GOOD FOR WELCOMING THE NEW YEAR... YOU SHOULD BE HAPPY ABOUT IT TOO.

24 DAYS FROM NOW ON.

TODAY IS 12/7... IN OTHER WORDS, THE DURATION OF THE MATCH WILL BE...

IT'S ONLY 24 DAYS!

ARE YOU SERIOUS?

HUH? LONG!?

LAST 24 DAYS OF YOUR LIFE.

IT'S THE...

I GUESS THE BRAIN OF A GAMBLING JUNKIE IS ONLY A STEP AWAY FROM THE TERMINAL PHASE.

YOU CAN'T GET YOUR SPIRITS UP WITHOUT PROVOKING YOUR OPPONENT?

SORRY THAT I DIDN'T FIGURE IT OUT IMMEDIATELY... WERE YOU TAUNTING ME...?

!

SO THAT'S WHAT YOU MEANT?

BUT,

THIS "MEN" CARD,

IT'S A FACT THAT I DON'T HAVE THE ADVANTAGE RIGHT NOW.

THIS IS A ONCE IN A LIFETIME GAMBLE, YOU KNOW?

THEN, WE'LL ONLY HAVE 2 PLAYERS?

ALMOST NOBODY RECOGNIZES ME IN MY ORGANIZATION.

SINCE I NEVER SHOW MY FACE,

UNDER-STOOD.

4 PEOPLE AT MOST FOR BOTH PLAYERS.

INDEED... ALTHOUGH I'LL EXPOSE MY IDENTITY IF I CALL THEM,

IT'S ALL ABOUT LIFE AND DEATH, SO I HAVE NO CHOICE.

...

I'VE DECIDED THE "LOCATION" AND THE RULES ACCORDING TO THOSE ELEMENTS.

THE "TIME" IS 24 DAYS.

GENTLEMEN...

THE NUMBER OF ALLIES IS 4 FOR EACH PLAYER.

DECISIONS, DECISIONS... THEN, THE NUMBER OF ALLIES WILL BE...

WE WON'T BE RESPONSIBLE FOR ANY REJECTIONS FROM THEM. IT SEEMS LIKE IT'LL BE DIFFICULT TO CONTACT LALO-SAMA'S ALLIES.

PLEASE TELL ME WHERE YOUR ALLIES ARE AND THE WAYS TO CONTACT THEM.

BECAUSE COMMUNICATION IS FORBIDDEN, WE'LL BE IN CHARGE OF CONTACTING YOUR ALLIES, AND THE REFEREES WILL LEAD THEM TO WHERE THE GAMBLE IS.

YES.

HAVE YOU DECIDED YOUR ALLIES YET, BAKU-SAMA?

HIS LIFE HAS BEEN A MESS.

EVER SINCE HE GOT INVOLVED WITH ME...

PLEASE TELL HIM,

HE'LL NEVER LOSE HIS SPIRIT TO FIGHT.

EVEN SO,

I HAVE.

OF COURSE

IF HE IS WILLING TO,

I HOPE HE WILL BE MY ALLY.

CHAN-MIDA,

WHAT ABOUT THE 3RD ONE?

UNDER-STOOD.

AS LONG AS THAT PERSON AGREES, WE WILL DEEM HIM AS AN ALLY

PLEASE SAY IT.

THEN, THE 3RD PERSON WILL BE...

ANYONE CAN BE MY ALLY?

YES.

EVEN IF HE'S OUR PURGING TARGET, HE'LL BE A PLAYER THIS TIME.

HACHINA
NAOKI.

THIS IS A MATCH THAT'S CONFIDENTIAL TO EVERYONE OTHER THAN THE PLAYERS AND THE REFEREES, RIGHT?

LISTEN,

WHY ARE YOU SO SURPRISED, CHAN-MIDA?

WHAT ...? HUH!?

THEN IT'LL BE TROUBLE-SOME.

TO SOME DEGREE, THERE'S ONLY ONE PERSON THAT IS NOT INVOLVED IN THIS MATCH... AND IT DOESN'T SEEM LIKE HE WANTS TO JOIN.

.....

I'M OKAY WITH IT.

WE HAVE TO FORCE YOU TO ENTER THE 卍(BAN) TOO...

SINCE YOU KNOW SO MUCH, IN ORDER TO KEEP YOU QUIET,

I WAS PLANNING TO BE HACHINA INSTEAD OF KIRUMA UNTIL THIS MATCH ENDS ANYWAY.

HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA

HA

FROM THE BEGINNING,

……

NO, NO, IT'S NOT LIKE THAT.

LET ME SAY THIS FOR YOU.

YOU...

INTENDED TO ENTER THE 卍(BAN) WITH THAT POSITION, RIGHT?

BY POSTING THE 卍(BAN), YOU WILL...

AND ME,

IN ORDER TO MAKE SURE THAT NEITHER OF US CAN WIN, YOU'RE PLANNING TO INTERFERE.

VINCENT LALO,

NO ONE IS A WINNER.

CREATE A SITUATION WHERE

THERE WILL BE NO VICTOR IN THIS MATCH... WHICH MEANS,

WILL ALSO BE ANNULLED TOO.

TAKE ALL THE WAGERS ON THE TABLE... AND THEN "SURPASSING THE LEADER"

BY DOING SO, YOU'LL BE ABLE TO

THAT'S WHY YOU SET UP THIS MEETING BY ALL MEANS.

IMPRESSIVE.

ACTING SO FAST AND REASONABLY.

THIS MATCH WILL DEFINITELY BE HELD.

EVEN IF THAT'S THE CORRECT ANSWER, IT'S TOO LATE.

AS CALM AS

AN INSECT.

THERE'S NO WAY OUT FOR YOU.

CHAPTER 328
LET THE MATCH BEGIN

SHAKA
SHAKA
SHAKA
SHAKA
SHAKA
SHAKA

THE LOCATION OF THE 札(BAN) IS CONFIDENTIAL. SO BEFORE WE ARRIVE THERE, ALL INFORMATION WILL BE HIDDEN FROM THE PLAYERS.

I CAN'T TELL YOU.

WE CHECKED ALL THE COMMUNICATION DEVICES AND THE TRANSMITTERS BEFORE WE SET OFF.

AND THAT'S THE REASON WHY

ス。。

……

KADOKURA-SAN,

CRACK
CRACK

WHERE ARE WE GOING?

YES.

THE OPPONENT'S ALLIES WILL BE LATE LIKE US?

SNORE

BAKU-SAMA AND THE OPPONENT HAVE ENTERED THE 卍(BAN).

THE BOSS OF IDEAL.

THE OPPONENT IS VINCENT LALO,

WE'LL ENTER IT AFTER THEM.

THAT CARACAL ...

.....

WHICH MEANS HIS ALLY... WILL BE...

IDEAL!

YOU SAID.. THE REFEREES WHO WILL ENTER THE 卍(BAN)...

LIKE US, THEY SHOULD BE HEADING TOWARDS THE VENUE LED BY THE REFEREES WHO WILL ENTER THE 卍(BAN).

I SEE...

...THAT'S RIGHT,

!

WE CONFIRMED HIS BODY ON THE ROOF OF THE TOWER'S BUILDING.

HE'S DEAD.

THE NUMBER OF ALLIES IS 4 AT MOST.

USO-GUI

LALO

I'LL

ENTER TOO.

THEN, LALO-SAMA,

WHO WILL BE YOUR 3RD ALLY?

THERE'S A MAN

THAT USOGUI KNOWS.

WHO ARE LALO'S ALLIES?

I'LL INTRODUCE THEM TOO...

BUT I'M AFRAID YOU WON'T RECOGNIZE ANY OF THEM, KAJI SAMA.

FUKUROU.

!!

THE 3RD ONE...

HE SHOULD BE SOMEONE MADARAME BAKU KNOWS TOO.

.....

?

THE SENIOR MEMBER OF KAKEROU, FUKUROU,

.....

SINCE WHEN DID YOU TWO HANG AROUND WITH EACH OTHER?

NAH,

WE HAVEN'T KNOWN EACH OTHER FOR LONG~

HAHA...

HOW IRONIC...

AS I THOUGHT.

FUKUROU IS INVOLVED.

THEN, THE 4TH... THE LAST ALLY.

THE 4TH ALLY...

IN A SENSE, HE'S THE ONLY ONE... MY FIRST ALLY AND COMPANION...

I'VE CHOSEN HIM FROM THE BEGINNING.

NO,

?

I DON'T KNOW IF HE CAN COME IMMEDIATELY... HE'S IN SOME TROUBLE RIGHT NOW.

BUT HE WILL...

HE WILL DEFINITELY COME.

WHAT A COINCI-DENCE,

IT'S HARD TO SAY...

MY FRIEND IS HANDLING SOME TROUBLE TOO.

MY ALLY...

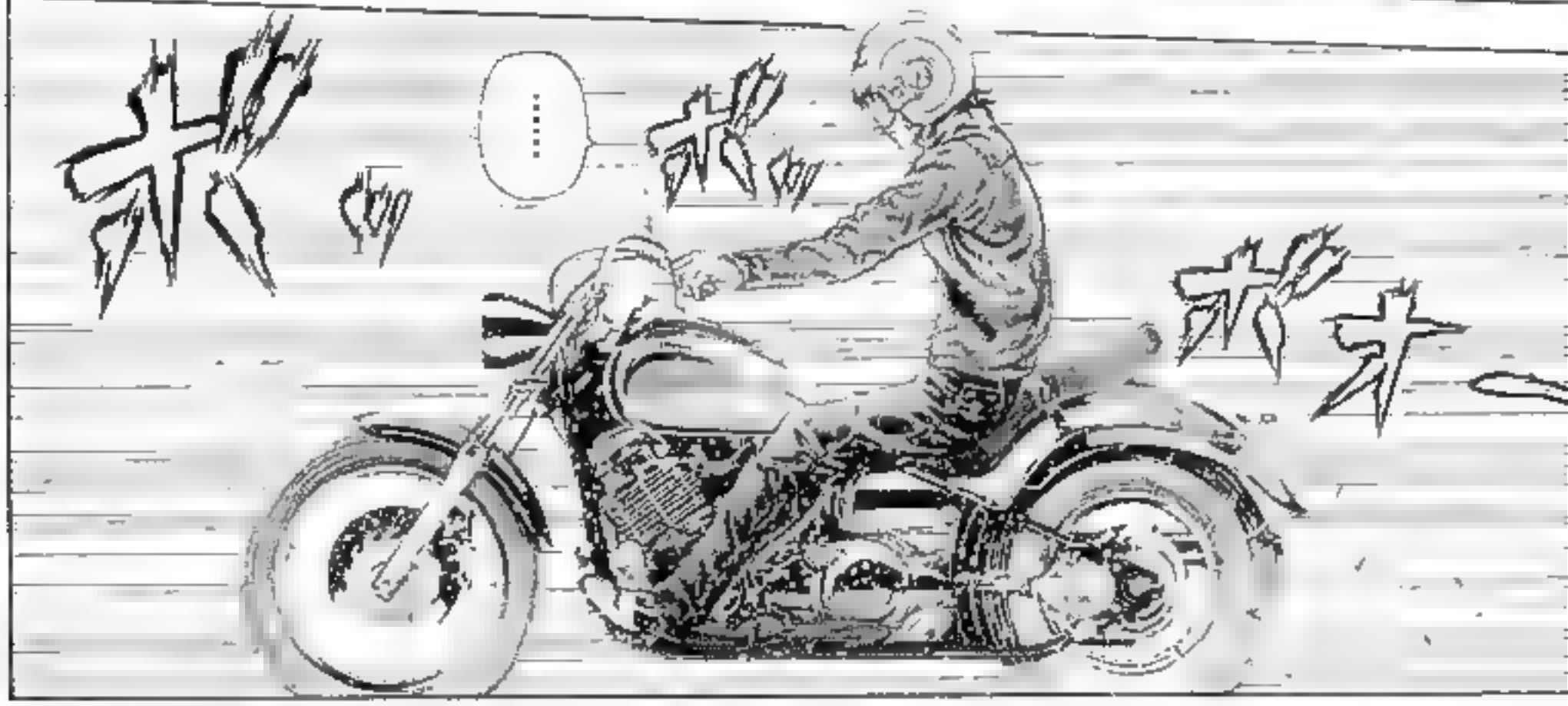
NO,

IF HE CAN COME.

I'LL TELL YOU THE WAY TO CONTACT HIM AND LEAVE IT TO YOU, REFEREE.

...UNDER-STOOD.

BUT MAYBE HE HAS GOTTEN TIRED OF THAT TROUBLE, SO HE MIGHT DROP IT AND COME HERE FIRST.


PEOPLE LIVE BY ADJUSTING TO THEIR ENVIRONMENT.
SOMETIMES THEY GET LAZY, SOMETIMES THEY ARE COMMITTED TO WORK, AND THEY HAVE TO TAKE A BREAK BEFORE THEY GO ON
HIS NAME IS GYEONGHO JONGLYO.

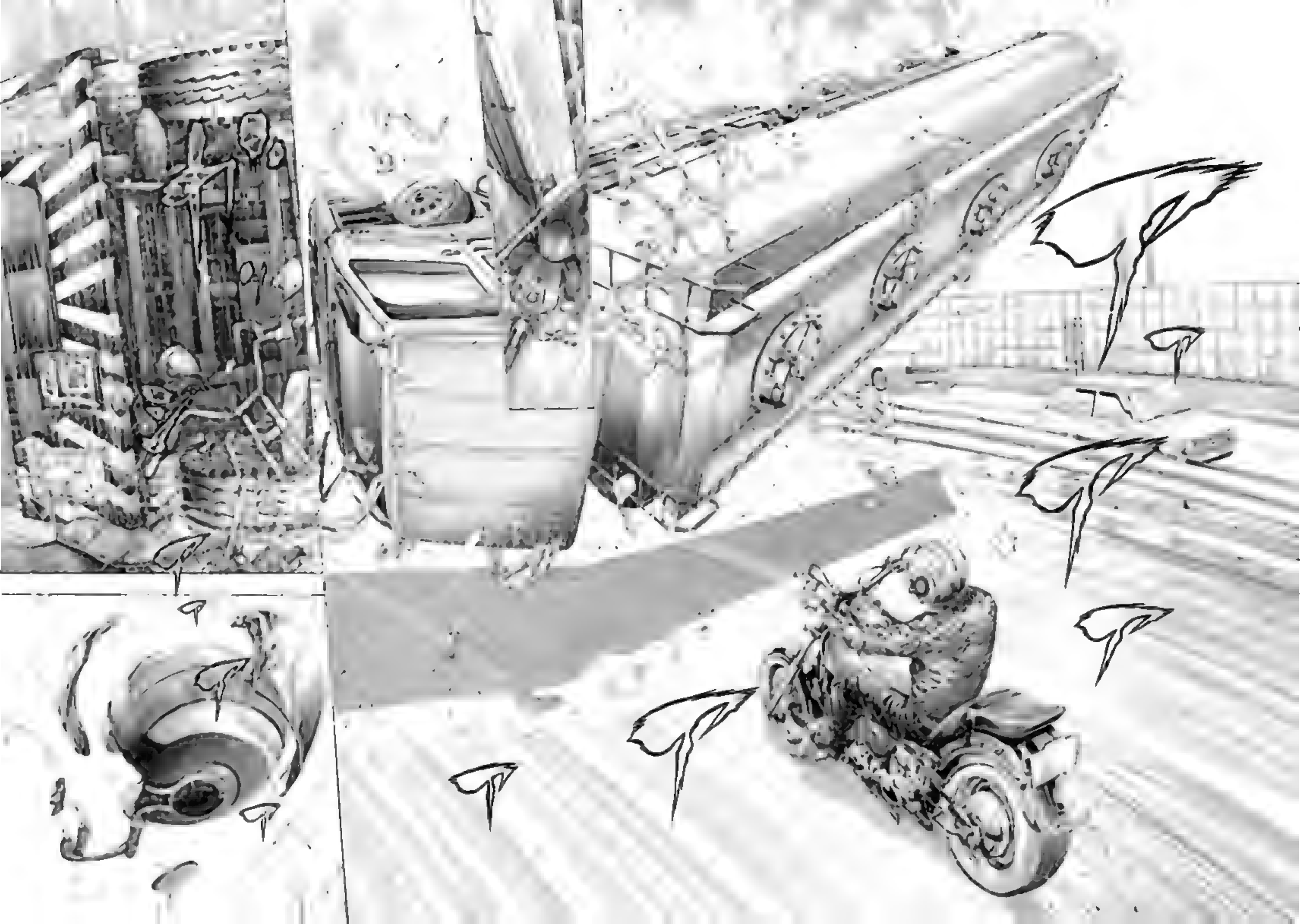
HIS "THEORY" IS... "THIS WORLD" IS HIS OWN WORLD...

I'M AFRAID NO ONE CAN UNDERSTAND HIS "ACTS".

WHAT HE DOES IS THE SAME AS THAT. IT'S VERY "NORMAL" TO HIM.

HOW-EVER,

I REMEMBER HE CALLS IT "MY WORLD".



LET'S PRAY FOR NO CASUALTIES.

IT SEEMS SO... KAJI SAMA.

.....

THE CRASHING SOUND FROM BEHIND US WAS THERE AN ACCIDENT?

U~

WHAT WAS THAT!?

YOU GOT SOME BUSINESS?

THE ONE WHO HAD BEEN TRACKING "STEALTHILY", SUDDENLY ASSAULTED SO "AGGRESSIVELY".

(TSK!

IT'S MY TURN TO CHASE.

THIS TIME,

YOU CAN'T RUN,

NOW LET'S HEAD TOWARDS THE "VENUE".

WE'VE DECIDED ALL THE ALLIES.

IF THEY AGREE, THE ALLIES WILL ENTER THE 卍(BAN) AFTERWARDS.

ALRIGHT,

THIS IS THE WINNING CONDITION:

IT'S... A BOAT!?

AFTER 24 DAYS,

WHICH MEANS

ON 12/31,

WILL BE THE WINNER.

THE "KAISER"

WHAT...? KAISER?

I'LL EXPLAIN.. BUT,

?

THE KAISER?

ANYTHING OTHER THAN THAT...

THE CONDITION IS VERY SIMPLE.

"WHEN THE TIME IS OVER, THE KAISER IS THE WINNER".

AFTER WE GET THERE,

YOU WILL UNDERSTAND YOURSELF.

IS ALLOWED.

嘘喰い 30完

THE COMMEMORATION OF EXCEEDING 30 VOLUMES!!

嘘喰い×JOJO

THE DREAM COOPERATION!!

TO CONGRATULATE USOGUI SURPASSING 30 VOLUMES, ARAKI HIROHIKO, WHOM THE AUTHOR, SAKO TOSHIO, HAS ALWAYS LOOKED UP TO AS HIS TEACHER, PRAISES PASSIONATELY!! BEHOLD, THE "ARAKI VERSION OF USOGUI"!!

迫稔雄

荒木飛呂彦

CONGRATS

"USOGUI"

CONGRATULATIONS ON
THE SALE OF VOL.30.
PLEASE KEEP CREATING GOOD MANGA.

ARAKI HIROHIKO
荒木飛呂彦

THE COMMEMORATION OF EXCEEDING 30 VOLUMES!!

嘘喰い×JOJO

THE DREAM COOPERATION!!

荒木飛呂彦

追稔雄

THANK YOU
SO MUCH FOR
YOUR ILLUSTRATION,
ARAKI SENSEI!!
AND IT'S THANKS TO THE
SUPPORT OF ALL THE READERS THAT
I COULD MAKE IT THIS FAR.
THANK YOU VERY MUCH.
PLEASE CONTINUE YOUR
PATRONAGE FOR
"USOGUI"!!

SAKO TOSHIO

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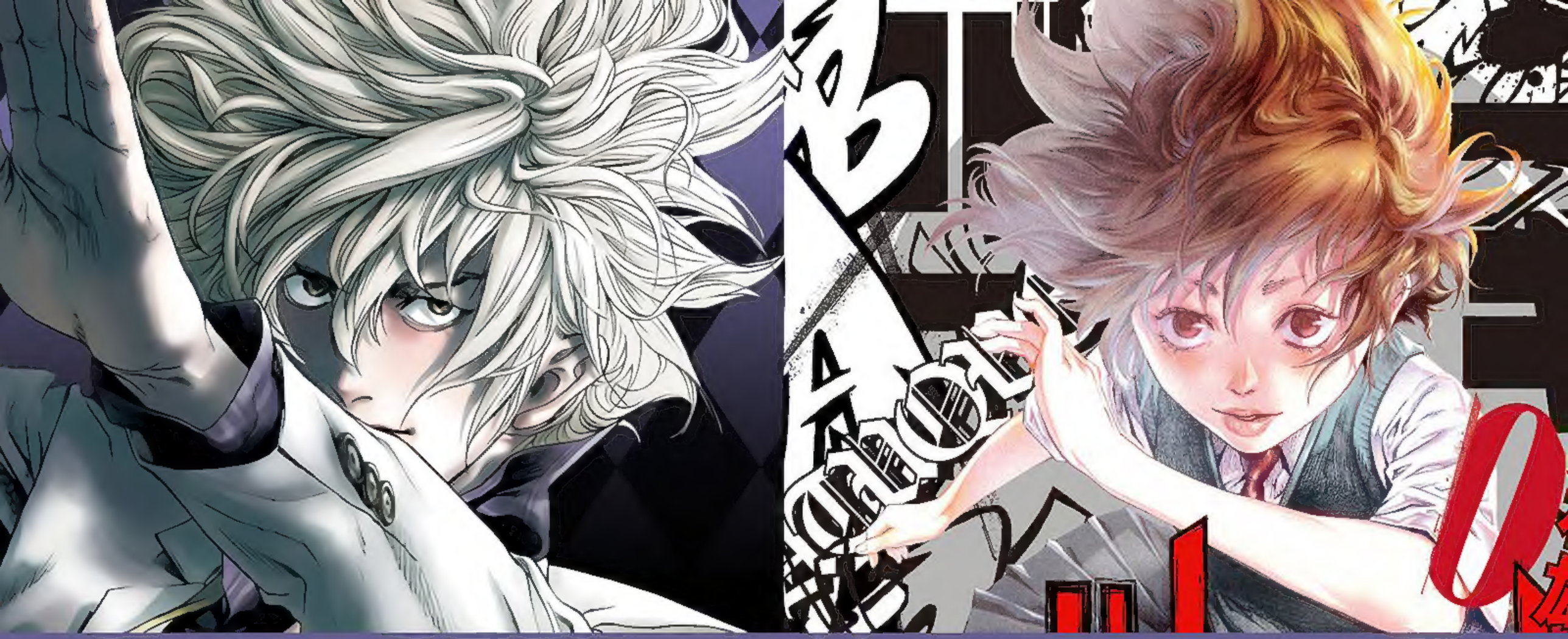

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